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COURT INTRIGUES.

OR THE

SECRET HISTORY

O F

*ARDELISA,*

A Story founded on FACTS, and  
illustrated with Anecdotes of Per-  
sons in real Life.

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*Since Painted, or not Painted, all shall fade,  
And she who scorns a Man, must die a Maid;  
What then remains, but well our Powder to use,  
And keep good Humour still whate'er we lose!*

POPE.

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OF THE

SECRET HISTORY

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## COURT INTRIGUES.



UNDER the Reign of  
*Theodosius*, a long and  
bloody War which broke  
out in *Europe*, had  
call'd upon a Prince of the Blood  
who had a Command in the Army  
to attend his Duty ; he did it chear-  
fully ; which had such an Effect up-  
on some of the young Nobility,  
that almost every Man of Honour

B

made



made a Point of getting into the Service: This occasioned such a Scarcity of Men at Court, that those Women who were inclin'd to Gallantry, were oblig'd to make large Advances, and over-step the Bounds of Decency.

*Ardelisa* was one whom this Scarcity affected; she was formed by Nature to please, and had a Heart susceptible of the tender Emotions of Love; her Face was round, her Nose well-turn'd, her Mouth small, her Eyes black, bright, and sparkling, the Regularity of her Features was remarkable; but when she chanc'd to smile, the whole was  
out

out of Order ; and what adds new Graces to a handsome Face in other Woman, in hers had a contrary Effect ; her Hair was a light Chestnut, full-chested, a good Skin, her Shape not remarkable, and a little too plump.

She had a sprightly Wit, but insincere, unequal in her Temper, and extremely giddy, fond of Pleasure to Excess, and running any Lengths to attain it.

It is not to be imagined that a Woman with a great Share of Beauty, a fine Fortune, and Youth of her Side, should long want Admirers ; in Fact, she had many.



*Lenox*, a Man of Family, and in Possession of a fine Fortune, was the Man pitch'd upon by her Father, and the Marriage was soon concluded.

Those of her Lovers, whose Aim was Matrimony, retired upon the News of this Marriage ; on the contrary, those who had different Views, redoubled their Affiduities.

*Oroondates* was among the Number of the latter, and had not much Reason to complain of her Insensibility ; he might perhaps have continued long a Favourite, had not his ill Fortune rais'd him a powerful Rival.

*Condolus*

*Condolus* was of the Blood Royal, and had, besides his high Birth, and large Fortune, the Advantage of a fine Person ; he was a tall, easy, genteel Figure, in the Prime of Life ; stript of the Ornaments of Dress, he would still have had the Air of a Man of Quality ; he had Sense and Understanding, and his Generosity was unbounded ; with those Advantages he had the soft, easy, insinuating Manner, which so often steals into the Heart of a Woman. Such was *Condolus*, and such as we have describ'd *Ardelisa* ; it may easily be conjectur'd he did not long sigh in vain.



What had escap'd the Security of the Husband, the prying Eye of the Lover soon discovered. *Lenox* never suspected that any Thing more than common Civility past between his Wife and *Oroondates*, *Condolus* perceiv'd the Nature of their Engagement, and perhaps a Sort of Pride in supplanting this Favourite did not a little contribute to add new Charms to a Face which Nature had no Way been negligent of; Birth, Fortune and Merit, are dangerous Batteries when play'd at once upon a Woman's Honour. *Condolus*, who knew their united Strength as well as any Man, thought

thought fit to make his first Attack,  
by the following Letter.

*I AM sorry Madam, that the  
Language of Love is every where  
so much alike ; he that feels not, can  
paint the Passion upon Paper, as  
well as he who does. I may tell  
you, that you are the finest Woman  
in the Kingdom, this a Thousand  
have done before me ; that your Wit  
and Understanding are not to be  
equalld, this every Body knows ;  
that I love you, you need not doubt,  
every one who sees you must do so ;  
but mine is a Passion that Words  
cannot paint ; my Actions shall con-  
vince you ; if I am thus far gone al-  
ready,*



*ready, judge what must be the Case if a Return of Tenderneſs on your Part, ſhould add Gratitude to my Love.*

The Joy, the Pride that play'd in the Heart of *Ardeliſa* upon the Receipt of this Letter, may be conceiv'd by her Answer.

**I***F any Thing could ſhock my Delicacy in point of Love, 'tis your Manner of Writing ; the Lover is loſt in the Man of Wit ; ſuch calm uninspired Sentiments, are no Proof of Love ; you ſay your Actions will prove your Sentiments, to thoſe I refer it.*

*Tho'*

Tho' there does not appear any Thing like a Denial in this Billet, yet the Pride of *Condolus* was a little hurt by it; he expected she would have been more explicit, and therefore was less pressing than she desired; but this Lover was of too much Consequence to be lost for want of making a few Advances: She therefore met him more than Half-way. The Bargain was soon struck up, but *Condolus* had more Pride than to bear a Rival, and insisted upon her not seeing *Oroondates*. She took Fire at this Demand, and he was oblig'd to submit; but this Calm was of short Duration; for *Oroondates* dreading so powerful a Rival, took care to have *Lenox* inform'd  
of

of the whole Affair, who insisted on *Ardelisa* seeing *Condolus* no more. The Constraint they now were under gave a Spur to their Inclination, and they contrived a thousand new Ways for carrying on their Amour; notwithstanding which, *Oroondates* continued still in Favour. *Condolus* complain'd, and told her such Behaviour was incompatible with the Love she profess'd for him. She reply'd, that she saw he considered nothing but his own Satisfaction, and was regardless of the Danger to which such a Separation must expose her; that should she discard *Oroondates*, he would not fail to expose her to her Husband, and

all



all the World; conjur'd him to make himself easy on that Head; that Time might bring about Circumstances which would make such a Separation less dangerous.

Though the lov'd *Condolus*, she would not part with *Oroondates*, wisely considering that two Lovers were better than one; and that by tincturing each with a Spice of Jealousy, the great Purpose of Love would be better answered.

Matters stood thus between them, when *Mefirus*, a Man of low Birth, but immense Riches, fell in love with *Ardelisa*; and having found  
out

out that she was fond of gaming, he made no Doubt but his Money would supply the Place of whatever else was wanting. He had easy Access to her, but was afraid of breaking his Mind, apprehensive that some ugly Consequences might attend her Refusal. He therefore communicated his Sentiments to her by Letter, in the following Manner:

**I** HAVE lov'd many a Time in my Life, but never to the Degree I now love you. What induces me to believe so is, that I never yet gave any above 100 Pieces, for you 1000 are ready. Reflect upon this; and withal, consider that Money is now extremely scarce.

Qui-

*Quinetta*, Woman to *Ardelisa*,  
and her Confidante, gave her this  
Note : To which she immediately  
reply'd :

**B***R* the many Conversations I  
have had with you, I easily dis-  
covered that you were a Man of  
Sense ; but I never before knew you  
had so pretty a Manner of writing :  
I never saw any Thing so polite as  
your Letter, and should be charm'd  
at receiving many such. I have so  
good an Opinion of your Discretion,  
that I shall be glad to see you this  
Evening at Six o'Clock.

*Mefirus* did not fail at the Time  
appointed, and had provided every

C

Thing



Thing necessary for his Reception.  
 He was introduced by *Quinetta* into  
 her Mistress's Chamber. "Here, Ma-  
 " dam," said he, upon entering the  
 Room, and producing his Bag, " I  
 " stick to my Conditions." " And  
 " I to mine," said *Ardelisa*, taking  
 the Money from him ; which, after  
 she had told over, " Well, said she,  
 " you certainly have the genteelest  
 " Manner of making Love of any  
 " Man I ever knew in my Life.  
 " Other People talk of Flames and  
 " Darts, and a deal of Nonsense ;  
 " but you come to the Point at  
 " once." Having trifled a good  
 deal upon this new Kind of Gallan-  
 try, he press'd for the Performance  
 of

of Articles. She behav'd like a Woman of Honour, and gave him *Value received* for his 1000 Pieces. He had the Happiness of a second and a third Visit; but, at the fourth, she told him she expected he would have oblig'd her with another witty Letter.

*Messrs.*, who thought he had purchased the whole Stock, began to grumble at being allow'd but a Sample; but it avail'd little; all he could obtain was Permission to visit her now and then; she expected, that by granting him this Liberty, she should keep his Flame alive, and get him in a Humour to write an-

other Letter of the same Tenor as the former.

The old Man lik'd her very well, but thought it full dear to pay 1000 £ for every third or fourth Visit.

Tho' the Price was excessive, *Mefirus* might perhaps have made one or two more Purchases, had not the following Affair made him obtain her Favours at an easier Rate.

He had taken his Leave of *Arde-lisa* for a few Days, intending to go down to —, a few Miles from the Capital, where he had built a mighty neat Box, and in which he usually



usually spent two or three Days every Week.

It was now the Season of Horse-racing, a Diversion of which *Gondolus* was extremely fond; he was therefore gone down with some of his Friends, and was not expected back in less than a Week.

As to *Lenox*, in a very little Time after his Marriage, he got so thoroughly acquainted with the Character of his Wife, as to arrive to that Degree of Happiness of holding her in Contempt. His Indifference was such that he seldom saw her; often in the Country, sometimes in Town, but rarely at his

own House; which, when he con-  
descended to visit, he seldom saw  
*Ardelisa*.

The Woman who has once over-  
leap'd the Bounds of Modesty so  
far as to allow a Plurality of Lovers,  
cannot be supposed over-solicitous  
about the Preservation of her Cha-  
racter: The Case was however other-  
wise with *Ardelisa*; she observed  
some Sort of Measures, tho' she gave  
a Loose to her Inclination, perhaps  
from a Notion that Secrecy gave a  
Zest to her Pleasures, or from an  
Apprehension, that should her Cha-  
racter be blasted, it would not be  
an easy Matter to supply the Loss of  
old

old Gallants, as a fly-blown Reputation soon taints, and frightens away the Butterflies that flutter around Beauty and Innocence.

*Oroondates* was the fittest Man in the World for a Woman of *Ardelisa's* Humour; for he thankfully received those Favours she was pleas'd to bestow upon him, without reproaching her for the Happiness she conferr'd on others. His Delicacy was not offended at his having two such powerful Rivals as *Condolus* and *Mesirus*; the Mediocrity of his Circumstances made it necessary for him to be purblind to her Faults; and he never presum'd to see more of them than she desir'd he should.

The



The Absence of *Condolus* and *Mefirus*, made the Presence of *Oreondates* necessary; she therefore gave him an Appointment that Evening.

It happened to be a very rainy Day, and that prevented *Mefirus* going out of Town; he waited upon *Ardelisa* in the Evening, who seem'd a little surpriz'd at seeing him; but composing herself in the best Manner she could, entertained him with seeming Chearfulness; he had not been long with her, when a loud knocking was heard at the Door, and putting her Head out of the Window, saw *Condolus*, and heard him bid the Coachman

man drive Home; this was a Thunder Stroke; *Mefirus* already in the House, *Oroondates* instantly expected, and *Condolus* coming up the Stairs. What was to be done; she had however no great Difficulty in perswading *Mefirus* to step into a Balcony, into which a Door opened from her Chamber; he, who had his Reasons for not being seen by *Condolus*, took the Hint, and withdrew immediately; he had but just Time to shut the Door after him, when *Condolus* enter'd the Chamber.

“ Madam says he, an Express has  
 “ brought me back from — to  
 “ attend a grand Council To-mor-  
 “ row Morning; I thought it my  
 “ Duty

“Duty to let you know I was in  
 “Town.” At another Time she  
 would have been very glad of such  
 a Visit, but after a formal Invitati-  
 on to *Oroondates*, she could think  
 of no Pretence to prevent his com-  
 ing; she therefore pretended an In-  
 disposition, and express’d a Desire  
 of retiring to Rest. *Candolus* told  
 her he was glad he had been so  
 lucky as to come, as he hop’d he  
 should have the Honour of being  
 her Physician that Night; she made  
 many Excuses, but he seem’d de-  
 termin’d.

*Mefirus*, whom a very heavy  
 Rain made weary of his Situation,  
 heard



heard every Syllable that past, and finding no Probability of being releas'd, took the Resolution of jumping down from the Balcony; he did so, at the Hazard of his Neck; but being seen by the Watch, they laid hold of him, and insisted upon knowing whether the House had been robb'd before they let him go. Their knocking had alarm'd *Condo-las* and *Ardelisa*, who ran down into the Hall to see what was the Matter; where they saw *Mefirus*, who cut a terrible Figure; he was wet quite through, and hurt his Face in slipping down from the Balcony. *Ardelisa* could hardly  
 still

stifle a Laugh, and *Condolus* burst out  
 into a loud one. "What, says he,  
*Mefirus* turn'd Night-Adventurer,  
 surely it cannot be! But a Man of  
 your Fortune taken up for House-  
 breaking, this is a scandalous Af-  
 fair. As to you Madam, said he,  
 with a malicious Sneer, I now per-  
 ceive the Cause of your Indisposi-  
 tion, and leave the amorous *Mesi-  
 rus* here to administer Relief to  
 you; if he should fail, it will be  
 then Time enough to send for me."  
 so saying, he flung out of the Hall,  
 and left *Ardelisa* a good deal terrified,  
 for she plainly saw, that he guess'd  
 how Matters stood; she was so ex-  
 tremely chagrin'd, that she did not  
 mind

mind the Reproaches *Mefirus* made her, for having brought him to the Condition in which he was, and his being expos'd to the Resentment of *Condolus*, who he guess'd would not fail of using his Influence to get him dismiss'd from a lucrative Employment he held under the Government; but here he was mistaken, for *Condo'us* was too generous to take the Advantage such an Opportunity gave him of being reveng'd; poor *Mefirus* sneak'd off, and left *Oroondates*, who had slept in unperceived during the Bustle, to comfort the afflicted Lady.

H

D

Some



Some Days had past, and she had heard nothing from Condolus; she therefore began to fear she had lost him; but resolv'd that a little Punctilio should not prevent her knowing his Sentiments; she determin'd to write to him; she did so, and this is the Substance of her Letter.

*A* Ppearances, I own, are against me; but give me an Opportunity of convincing you, that these are so, and if I fail, I consent to forfeit your Esteem; this Request I know your Generosity cannot refuse me, I shall therefore expect you this Evening.

He

He came according to Appointment, and she told him of the Thousand Pounds *Mefirus* had paid for his Visit, but sunk the most material Circumstances; Love seconded her, and both pleaded so effectually, that *Condalus* was soon convinced of her Innocence, and made a Thousand Excuses for his Suspicion, and applauded her Ingenuity. The old Man's Folly was the Subject of their Mirth the greatest Part of the Evening, and they parted very well satisfied with each other.

The Humour in which *Mefirus* had left her the Night of the Balcony

Scene, might, she apprehended, be productive of some Inconveniencies ; she therefore thought it was necessary to observe some Measures with him ; she wrote to him, and after apologizing for the Accident that had happen'd, gave him an Invitation to come and see her ; the Hurt he received, and the Drenching he had gone through, had not quench'd his amorous Flame ; his Love made him consider the Affair that had lately happen'd, as an Accident in which she had no Hand ; he therefore obey'd the Summons, and made himself ample Amends for the Disappointment he had lately had.

His



His Visits became frequent, and were not clogg'd with the Consideration of his paying an extravagant Price for them; for *Ardelisa* knowing the Secret was in his Power, contented herself with such trifling Presents as he was pleas'd to bestow upon her; and the old Man not being over delicate in Affairs of Love, was satisfied with such a Portion of her Favours, as she was pleas'd to confer upon those Terms.

Things remained upon this Footing for some Time; but whether through Spite at not becoming so highly favour'd as he expected, *Me-*

*firus* reveal'd any Part of the Story, or that his frequent Visits gave Room for Conjecture, is not certain; however it was, *Condolus* began to grow uneasy about it.

He was upon his Departure from the Capital for some Time, and at his going he begg'd that she would not suffer *Mefirus's* Visits, for that the World began to talk of the Affair; she promis'd whatever he desir'd, but perform'd not a Tittle, for she receiv'd the old Man's Visits as before; of which *Condolus* being inform'd, wrote her the following Letter.

*M,*

*MY* last Request Madam, when I took my Leave of you, was to break off your Correspondence with Mefirus; I had your Promise so to do, but his Visits I find are as frequent as ever. Is this honourable dealing? I am asham'd on't upon your Account, and as I find you are unworthy of my Love, I shall endeavour to shake off that which, to my Shame, I own I still feel for so base a Woman.

She was extremely surpriz'd at the Contents of this Letter, but as she knew herself guilty, she did not endeavour to palliate her Crime; and



and as she found she must sacrifice her Hopes of Wealth to her Ambition, she wrote the following penitential Epistle to him.

*I AM* *asham'd of my past Con-*  
*duct, and own I do not deserve*  
*your Love, and should despair of*  
*keeping it, did not my present Re-*  
*solution of obliging you in every*  
*Thing, entitle me to its Continuance.*  
*Mefirus shall enter these Doors no*  
*more; and Oroondates, whose Vi-*  
*sits my Husband obliges me to receive,*  
*shall see me so seldom that you*  
*shall be convinc'd that you alone pos-*  
*sess my Heart.*

*Condolus* was extremely satisfy'd  
 with this Letter, and resolv'd for  
 the

the future not to be too rash in censuring his Mistress upon Appearances, which often prove deceitful: He ran into the other Extreme, and became so secure in her Fidelity, that the different Scenes of Falshood and Coquetry which she ran through during six Months, were not sufficient to open his Eyes. Her Commerce with *Mefirus* and *Oroondates* still continued, tho' his Friends gave him repeated Advice of her Falshood, which he supposed was by his Father's Direction, who was desirous to break off this Correspondence, as he judg'd it was the Reason why his Son seem'd so averse to Matrimony.

Pre-

Prepossess'd in her Favour, he came back more in Love than he had been before: *Ardelisa* too, considering him in the Light of a new Lover, received him with Transports which were not feign'd, and gave such a Loose to them for some Time, that the whole Court could not help taking Notice of them. This *Condolus* took as a convincing Proof of his Passion, which, not even her Reason, or the awful Presence of a Court, could keep within its proper Bounds: But he was mistaken; the Levity of her Temper, or, perhaps, something too coarse to name,



name, occasioned this incautious  
Behaviour.

A Kind of Enchantment seem'd  
to have seiz'd him in Favour of this  
fair Wanton: Prodigal of his Love  
and Fortune, even to Excess, he still  
fancied himself her Debtor; so fast  
had she ensnar'd him, that every  
Attempt of his Friends to disen-  
tangle him had just the contrary Ef-  
fect, and he hugg'd the Chains that  
proclaimed his Folly to the World.

A Country-house which *Condolus*  
had taken at a little Distance from  
the Capital, under a feign'd Name,  
was the Scene they chose for their  
private

private Meetings, and such was his Infatuation, that tho' she continued still liberal of her Favours to *Oroondates*, and had several occasional Lovers, he look'd upon her as if she had been *Penelope* herself.

Winter pass'd on in this Manner, and in the Spring *Condolus* was call'd abroad to his Command in the Army. He had not been there above two Months, before he receiv'd News that rous'd him from his Lethargy, his Friends, who kept a watchful Eye over the Conduct of *Ardelisa*, had hitherto been afraid to mention her Irregularities to him, fearful that her Art should have turn'd the Tables on them, and made *Condolus* look  
upon

upon their officious Friendship as Marks of Envy : But when her Misconduct became the general Topic, they resolv'd to acquaint him with it, and agreed each to give him Information ; and to remove all Suspicion of their acting in Concert, they inform'd him separately that *Castillante* was fallen in Love with her ; and that her Behaviour to him gave Room to suspect that he was but too well received ; and that tho' she in Fact might not be criminal with him, yet the Levity of her Behaviour was a Stain upon his Honour. We shall leave *Condolus* to the Reflections such News must naturally throw him into, and treat of

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the



the Birth, Progress, and End of  
*Castillante's* Passion.

He was a well-made Man, had a fine Face, drest genteely, but of a weak Understanding; so that those who saw his Attachment to *Ardelisa*, and knew her Character, made no Doubt but that it was his Riches that procured him a favourable Reception.

One Night, that she had lost at Play, and was rising from the Table, *Castillante*, who had been watchful for such an Opportunity, slipped a Bank-Note of 500 *l.* into her Hand, and whisper'd her, that he was proud of the Opportunity of serving her; and raising his Voice, said, " Madam,  
 " Luck

“ Luck may turn ; sit down again ;  
 “ let me advise you.” She smil’d,  
 and sat down again ; she won ; and  
 when the Play was over, would have  
 return’d his Bill. “ Madam, (said  
 “ he) you know me not ; that  
 “ Trifle is hardly worth your Ac-  
 “ ceptance ; but when a Proof of  
 “ my Friendship is wanting, you  
 “ may command me.”

This Compliment was not lost  
 upon *Ardelisa* ; Time and Place  
 were appointed ; he obtained all that  
 his most sanguine Expectation had  
 promis’d him ; and he proved a li-  
 beral Lover for three whole Months,  
 for so long their Commerce lasted.

*Condolus* being prest afresh by his Friends to resent her ill Usage, wrote her the following Letter.

*IF* it was in your Power to clear yourself of the many Things laid to your Charge, I dare not continue to love you ; If you should be unhappy, blame yourself, I shall not treat you as you deserve ; the Regard I had for you disarms my Resentment, my Contempt you must expect ; I have shook Hands with Infamy, and shall never see you more.

He wrote this Letter just as he was upon his Return, and at a Time  
when



when the Army had suffer'd a De-  
 feat, which did not a little contri-  
 bute to the Sharpness of his Letter ;  
 for he could not bear to be van-  
 quish'd every where, and came  
 Home much out of Humour with  
 his Fate ; he grew melancholy,  
 and his Friends in vain contriv'd  
 Parties of Pleasure to dissipate the  
 Gloom that spread over his Mind,  
 but Time brought about his Cure ;  
 he keeps his Word, and has never  
 seen *Andelisa* since.

She continued for some Time in  
 the same giddy Round of Pleasure,  
 and by a Succession of new Lovers,

banished *Condolus* intirely from her Thoughts.

A young Nobleman whom we shall call *Samilcar*, had just made his Appearance at Court ; he saw *Ardelisa*, and fell desperately in Love with her ; he had good natural Parts, but was of a bashful Disposition, and a Country Education had increas'd his natural Timidity ; he had to do with one of the most cunning of her Sex, and this again damp'd his Spirits. Thus circumstanc'd, he found a thousand Difficulties in opening his Mind to her ; he watch'd every Opportunity, but still his Heart fail'd him ; incapable of  
giving

giving it Relief, he fell into a deep Melancholy, from which however a little Incident relieved him. He was one Day attentively looking at a little miniature Picture of hers, which he had employ'd a Painter, eminent in his Profession, to draw for him; his Tutor, than whom there never was a Man more fit to conduct an Affair of the Love Kind, surpriz'd him in his Reverie; and seeing the Picture, said laughing, " Now, my Lord, I plainly perceive  
 " the Cause of the Melancholy that  
 " hangs over you; I see 'tis *Arde-*  
 " *lise* that has caus'd this Disorder  
 " in your Mind; take Courage  
 " however, her Virtue is not in-  
 " sur-



"formidable." *Samilear* em-  
 braced him. "Do you think (says  
 he) she can be brought to think  
 favourably of me? for I frankly  
 own to you I do not find Cou-  
 rage enough in myself to make  
 the necessary Advances." "Leave  
 that to me, said the Tutor, I en-  
 gage she shall not long be insen-  
 sible of such Merit as your Lord-  
 ship's."

*Samilear* could not in Fact have  
 chose a more able Negotiator; he  
 knew the World, and soon disco-  
 vered the Foible of a Woman; he  
 had studied *Ardelisa*, and found  
 that this rattling giddy Wanton,  
 though

though susceptible of every Pleasure, was particularly open to the Power of Money and Flattery; he was sensible his Patron could attack her with the former, and he with the latter; he had an easy Flow of Words, a soft perswasive Manner, which would have endangered more Virtue than was fallen to *Ardelisa's* Share.

One Night at a Masquerade, having been careful to get Information of her Dress, he watch'd her close; and she, who was in Search of some new Adventure, soon gave him the Opportunity he wanted. He accosted her, "Madam (said he) can  
" Cruelty

“ Cruelty inhabit so fair a Form, so  
 “ fine a Face.” — “ What do you  
 “ know of my Face (said she)  
 “ pretty smartly ?” “ I know ’tis  
 “ the Masterpiece of Nature’s  
 “ Workmanship, reply’d he ;” “ Do  
 “ you know me (said she ?)” “ Can  
 “ the Sun be hid Madam ? *Ardelisa* is  
 “ known every where.” To another  
 Woman this would have appear’d  
 mere Rant ; but as has been ob-  
 serv’d, the most gross Flattery went  
 down with her. “ Well then (said  
 “ she) and like the Sun I suppose  
 “ I am to be ador’d : Well, but  
 “ pray who are you ?” “ One that  
 “ has long admir’d you Madam ;”  
 “ Hush (says she) here is Company  
 “ coming



“ coming up, meet me an Hour

“ hence. Attention to her Conduct

on his Part, and a Thousand little

Frolicks on hers, filled up the

Space. At last she gave him the

Signal, and they withdrew; “ Well

“ (said she) my Knight-Errant,

“ What have you to say to me?”

“ A Thousand Things Madam

“ (said he)” “ Pshaw (said she)

“ I suppose you’ll tell me I’m a

“ fine Woman, have a deal of

“ Wit, all this I have heard be-

“ fore.” “ Well then, Madam,

“ one Thing I’ll tell you which you

“ have not heard ;” “ Ay ! What’s

“ that? out with it.” Why Ma-

“ dam, it is, that a very handsome

“ young

“ young Fellow, with a very fine  
 “ Fortune, is dying for you.” “ My  
 “ dear, dear, Incognita ; Who’s  
 “ that prithee ?” “ Faith Madam  
 “ (said he) you have not so much  
 “ Discernment as I thought you had,  
 “ or you must have found it out.”  
 “ That (said she) is a very bad  
 “ Compliment. Why, do you sup-  
 “ pose me (said she, a little nettled)  
 “ capable of inspiring a Passion  
 “ but in one Man ?” “ I am Ma-  
 “ dam a Proof of the contrary, for  
 “ I am devilishly in Love with you  
 “ myself.” “ Methinks you are  
 “ pretty merry on’t though (said  
 “ she)” “ Why look’e Madam,  
 “ you’re a Woman of Understand-  
 “ ing,

“ ing, don’t you think Time might  
 “ be better employ’d, than in idle  
 “ Compliments ?” “ Why I believe  
 “ the Man’s right, and what then ?”  
 “ Why then Madam, the Thing is  
 “ half done, my Consent is already  
 “ got.” “ Why, you’re an odd  
 “ Sort of a Fellow (said she) come,  
 “ I’ve a Mind for a Frolick, follow  
 “ my Chair.” She was set  
 down at a Milliner’s in ——— Street,  
 where Matters were quickly adjusted.

Affairs being settled to their mutual  
 Satisfaction, “ Now Madam  
 “ (said he) ’tis fit that I dis-  
 “ charge my Trust ; the young  
 “ F                      “ Noble-



“ Nobleman I spoke to you of, is  
 “ *Samilcar* ; he is ——— ” “ I under-  
 “ stand you (said she) but ’twill  
 “ be Time enough to settle that  
 “ Matter To-morrow.” He took  
 the Hint, and that Affair was put  
 off till Morning.

The honest Tutor gave her such  
 cogent Reasons, that it was resolv’d  
*Samilcar* should be admitted in the  
 Number of her Lovers ; and they  
 shar’d her Favour for some Time, for  
 the last Lover was always the most  
 welcome ; but not so much as to  
 make her intirely forget *Oroonda-*  
*tes.*

Some

Some Time before her breaking off with *Castillante*, she had made a new Conquest of the Chevalier *D'Aigremont* ; and as there is something extraordinary in the Character of this Man, we shall be the more particular in describing him. He was of a middling Stature, well made, had a fine Face, laughing Eyes, a handsome Mouth, and a Dimple in his Chin added new Charms to the Whole : In short, he had that Kind of Face which had the Mark of Meaning stamp'd in it. There was a sprightly Turn in his Conversation, and Words receiv'd a new Grace by his Manner of speaking them ; which

coming from another, would have lost a great deal of their Beauty ; he had a good deal of Discernment, and was not easily impos'd upon, by the Artifice of any Woman. Such a Lover was dangerous, but he was liberal, even to Profusion ; and by this Virtue, so necessary in Affairs of Love, neither his Mistresses or Rivals could ever keep a Domestic faithful about them.

He had been some Years a profess'd Admirer of *Melantha's*, a Woman as extraordinary as he ; for she was as remarkable for her good Qualities, as he was for many bad ones. She had been some  
Time



Time exil'd from Court, it was said because her Virtue had procured her many Enemies.

The Chevalier, who was remarkable for nothing less than Constancy, was not so much in Love with *Melinta*, as to look upon the Rest of that Sex with Indifference; during her Absence, he had been in Love with many, at least, after his Manner, which was rather Amusement than Love. Toying away an idle Hour, the Vanity of being upon good Terms with a fine Woman, the Pleasure of tormenting a Rival, and the Satisfaction of discovering their Secrets; were to him the chief

Motives for an Attachment to the  
Sex.

He had always three or four  
Fellows in Pay, whose Employ-  
ment was to watch the Motions of  
those he suspected ; they were paid  
in Proportion to the Intelligence they  
gave him, and he was not over  
scrupulous in discovering the Se-  
crets he by this Means came to the  
Knowledge of.

It must be observ'd, that his At-  
tachment to *Melantha* was on Ex-  
ception to the general Plan he had  
laid down in Love Affairs ; for he  
had really some Sort of Regard for  
her ;

her ; and he no sooner was inform'd of any new Conquest she had made, than he immediately quitted his other Engagements, and again paid his Devoirs to her ; he was right, for besides her being virtuous, she was really a very amiable Woman ; at her Return to Court she had many Admirers ; this alarm'd the Chevalier ; he renew'd his Addresses, and was receiv'd as before, with Affability and good Nature ; she had no Ambition to make Conquests, and therefore a Lover's Absence gave her but little Uneasiness.

In



In this State of Love, or rather Friendship, he was with *Melintba* when *Samilcar* fell in Love with *Ardelisa*. This Amour bid fair to satisfy his darling Passion Curiosity, and therefore he declar'd himself a Rival to *Samilcar*, from the laudable Motive of giving him Uneasiness.

*Ardelisa* had made an Appointment with *Samilcar*, and to elude the Chevalier's Vigilance, went out muffled, and cross'd the Water, where *Samilcar's* Coach waited for her. The Chevalier waited on her next Morning, and with unusual Gaiety,

Gaiety, told her he had discover'd a pleasant Intrigue, which he was come to communicate to her. He then gave her a circumstantial Account of her Proceedings the Day before with *Samilcar*.

She was extremely surpriz'd, and bit her Lips with Anger ; and when she had a little recover'd herself, told him some officious Fool had invented the Story to defame her.

“ Really Madam, (said he with a  
 “ Smile) I believe it is all a Lie ; I  
 “ only mention it to shew how busy  
 “ some People are ; but *Samilcar* is  
 “ a very handsome Fellow, and  
 “ might

" might tempt a Woman of less  
 " Virtue than *Ardelisa*," She per-  
 ceived his Meaning : " And pray,  
 " Chevalier," said she, putting on an  
 Air of good Humour, " if Things  
 " were as you suppose, what Right  
 " have you to pry into my Con-  
 " duct?" Alas, Madam, said he,  
 (fetching a deep Sigh) " the Unfor-  
 " tunate may complain." A Man  
 of more Delicacy, had he been really  
 in Love with her, upon such a Proof  
 of his Mistress's Infidelity as that  
 which he had come to the Know-  
 ledge of, would have abandoned her  
 for ever ; he, on the contrary, was  
 pleased at the Adventure, as it af-  
 forded him Matter of Merriment ;  
 and



and to puzzle *Ardelisa* the more,  
wrote her the following Letter.

**I** *Disbelieve the scandalous Report*  
*I mentioned Yesterday; I should*  
*have disbelieved my own Eyes; I dis-*  
*believe my Senses, who tell me you*  
*do not love me; they deceive me; so*  
*much Beauty cannot be insensible*  
*of the Power of Love; such Good-*  
*ness cannot refuse Returns to a Passion*  
*so unbounded as mine; but be it as it*  
*will, I must, and will love you.*

She could not tell what to make  
of this Letter; he never declared  
his Passion in such Terms be-  
fore, tho' she had given him many

Op-

Opportunities; she doubted his Sincerity, and suspected that *Melintba* was privy to his sending it; she therefore shew'd it to her, without acquainting her with her Suspicions. *Melintba*, tho' she had no great Regard for the Chevalier, found her Pride a little hurt. Few Women could bear such an Insult, not for the Loss of the Chevalier, but for his preferring another to her. She told *Ardelisa*, however, that she was oblig'd to her for ridding her of such a Person; that she had no Pretensions to him, and therefore he was at Liberty to make his Addresses where-ever he pleased.

*Ardelisa,*

*Ardelisa*, not content with shewing the Letter to *Melintba*, made a Merit of communicating its Contents to *Samilcar*; and whether he, *Ardelisa*, or *Melintba*, spoke of it, is not certain; but the Affair took Wind, and the poor Chevalier in Love became the Jest of all the Teatables in Town.

This was a severe Stroke upon him; he little imagined that *Ardelisa* could have so artfully turn'd the Tables upon him; but the Thing was done; there was now no Help for it; he bore the Raillery of his Friends with the best Grace imagi-

G

nable,



nable, but resolved that *Ardelisa* should not have long Cause to triumph.

Of all his Rivals, there was none he hated so much as *Samilcar*; not only because he thought him the greatest Favourite, but because he thought he least deserv'd it. He us'd to call the Lovers of *Ardelisa* *Philistines*, and said *Samilcar* had destroy'd them all with the Jaw-bone of an Ass.

About this Time *Lorenzo*, a remarkable handsome Fellow, and in the Bloom of Youth, but a little conceited, imagin'd the Conquest of *Ardelisa*

*Ardelisa* would be extremely easy, and contribute much to his Reputation among the Women: He therefore resolv'd to embark in an Affair with her. He communicated his Intention to *Monalto* his Friend, who approved his Design, and offered to serve him in it. *Lorenzo* and *Monalto* have too great a Share in this History to be slightly pass'd over; we shall therefore be particular in our Description of them.

*Lorenzo* had large, black, and sparkling Eyes, a handsome Nose, his Mouth somewhat large, but a fine Set of Teeth, a round Visage, and was well made; he had a good

Share of Wit, was fond of Raillery;  
 light and inconstant, but naturally  
 brave; he had a Post in the Army,  
 and figur'd it in the World.

*Menalto* had blue languishing  
 Eyes, his Nose aquiline, a large  
 Mouth, his Lips vermilion and pout-  
 ing, his Skin not very fair, and his  
 Hair flaxen; was well made, but  
 negligent in his Dress; he was not  
 indeed in Point of Fortune equal to

*Lorenzo*, but in Gentility of Beha-  
 viour surpass'd him, their Inclina-  
 tions much the same, which was  
 the Cause of the Friendship that  
 subsisted between them.

At



At the Time when *Ardelisa* was taking all the Pains in her Power to make the Chevalier's Letter publick, he discovered that *Lorenzo*, who was his near Relation, had fallen in Love with *Melintba*. This contributed to his breaking with *Ardelisa*, as he thought it would make his Reconciliation with *Melintba* the easier.

We shall, before we proceed, just mention that *Lorenzo* had been cross'd in an Amour with *Pontina*, a young Lady with Abundance of Wit, but low Birth, and little Fortune; the many Difficulties he met with in this Affair made him cast his

Eye upon *Ardelisa*, either to be reveng'd of the Sex, or from a natural Turn to Gallantry, which did not suffer him to remain long idle; this Discovery made the Chevalier endeavour to supplant him; but no sooner had he learnt that the other had really taken a liking to *Melantha*, than he endeavour'd to bring about the Reconciliation above-mentioned.

Five or six Months had elaps'd, during which Time the Chevalier thought himself happy in having got rid of so dangerous a Rival as his Kinsman; but the Friends of the latter represented to him the Shame of so fine a Fellow as he was, being

ing slighted by any Woman; that his Person and Fortune ought to give him the Preference wherever he made his Addresses; and that his being discarded by *Melantha* was a Sort of Blot upon his Character. His Pride was touch'd to the Quick by such a Consideration, and he resolv'd to attempt her once again.

Being one Day in one of the publick Walks with *Frankville*, who was an intimate Acquaintance of *Melantha's*, they happened to meet her. *Frankville*, who knew upon what Terms they had been, thought he could not oblige them more than by leaving them together. *Lorenzo*

never



never spoke one Word of Love, but  
 his Looks and Gestures were Ex-  
 pressive enough to let her see that  
 something was labouring in his Bo-  
 som. He had been wounded in  
 the Right-arm in a Duel he had  
 lately been engaged in; and whe-  
 ther from Weakness, or from any  
 other Cause, I know not; but he  
 fell into a Fainting-fit, and was ob-  
 lig'd to seat himself on one of the  
 Benches. *Melinta* was surpriz'd and  
*Frankville* ran to the Assistance of  
 his Friend. He soon recover'd, and  
 the two were divided in their Opi-  
 nions concerning the Cause of this  
 Accident. *Frankville* thought it  
 was owing to the Wound he had re-  
 ceived;

ceived; but *Melintha* imputed it to the Violence of his Passion. There is no Mistake into which a Woman is easier led, than that of her being belov'd; because Opinion tells them it is their Due. This Reason had sufficient Weight with *Melintha*, who no longer doubted of his being really in Love with her.

*Ardelisa*, who was loth to lose so valuable a Prize, prevailed upon a Friend of hers to introduce *Lorenzo* to her; but yet in such a Manner, as to prevent any Suspicion of her being privy to it. It was accordingly brought about, but had not the desir'd Effect; for he only said a few civil Things to her, and retir'd.

tin'd. He continued his Visits to *Melantha*, which awaken'd the Chevalier's Jealousy, and to be satisfied upon what footing they were together, he wrote a Letter with his Left-hand, which might the easier be suppos'd to come from *Lorenzo*, as he was incapable of Writing with the other. The Billet ran thus.

**Y**OU see Madam what Shifts we are oblig'd to make ; I write this with my Left-hand, to beg the Favour of an Interview with you To-day, but beg the Chevalier may know nothing of it ; for you know the Rashness of his Temper would carry



carry him any Lengths. Adieu,  
lovely Woman.

*Melintha* having read the Billet, gave Orders that when an Answer was call'd for, the Messenger should be told that the Gentleman was desir'd to send his Friend *Monalto* at Three o'Clock. When the Chevalier had received this Message, he fancied he had Proof enough to convict *Melintha* of double dealing in regard to him; he therefore waited upon her immediately, and the Anger he had conceived against her, was so strongly painted in his Face, that if *Melintha* had had the least Suspicion, she must soon have perceiv'd  
the

the Disorder of his Mind. He  
 accosted her with cold Civility,

“ Madam (said he) pray how long

“ may it be since you have seen

“ *Lorenzo?* ” “ Five or Six Days

“ (said she.) ” “ It is not quite so

“ long said he) tartly, since you

“ have received a Letter from him.”

“ Me receive Letters from *Lorenzo*

“ (said the Lady) he is not in a

“ Condition to write; but why

“ should he write to me? I thought

“ he had not been able to write to

“ any Body.” “ Have a Care Ma-

“ dam (said he) trifling may be at-

“ tended with dangerous Conse-

“ quences.” “ The Truth is (says

“ *Melintha*) that *Monalto* has sent

“ to

“ to ask when *Lorenzo* might wait,  
 “ on me, and I let him know he  
 “ might come without *Lorenzo* ;”  
 “ I know (said the Chevalier) you  
 “ only desir’d *Monalto* to come ; but  
 “ that was in Consequence of a  
 “ Letter received from *Lorenzo* ;  
 “ I have some Reason to know it,  
 “ because it was I wrote the Let-  
 “ ter, and receiv’d the Answer. It  
 “ is not enough to use me coolly, who  
 “ have so long ador’d you ; but to  
 “ prefer a Boy to me, whose Pre-  
 “ tensions are not above a Month  
 “ or Two old.” Then he storm’d  
 about the Room like a mad Man.  
*Melinta*, who saw herself fairly  
 trap’d, would have made a Joke of the

H

Affair ;



Affair ; then beginning a little more seriously. “ But (says she) if you  
 “ suspect any Intimacy between Lo-  
 “ renzo and I, how comes it, that  
 “ you have nothing of Consequence  
 “ to propose ? Let me know freely  
 “ what are your Pretensions, and  
 “ then I shall know what I have to  
 “ do ? ” “ Madam (said the Chevalier)  
 “ I know enough to see that you  
 “ are the most ungrateful of your  
 “ Sex, and I the most miserable of  
 “ mine.” Just as he had finish’d  
 these Words, *Monalto* came in, and  
 he quitted the Room to hide his  
 Disorder. “ For God’s Sake Madam  
 “ (says *Monalto*) what is the Mat-  
 “ ter ? You seem confus’d.” She re-  
 lated

lated the whole Affair to him ;  
 he paus'd, and leaving the Room,  
 return'd in less than Hour with the  
 following Note from *Lorenzo*.

MADAM,

**T**HAT you may not again be  
 impos'd upon by a Forgery, I  
 take the Liberty of sending you a  
 Specimen of my Writing and Stile ;  
 the former may be counterfeited,  
 the latter cannot ; as 'tis the Lan-  
 guage of the Heart, a Language  
 unknown to Wretches who make  
 Use of such mean Artifices.

“ Lord (says *Melantha*) having  
 “ read the Billet, sure the Man's

“ mad, he is going to draw me and  
 “ himself too into a Scrape, it looks as  
 “ if he intended to declare himself  
 “ my Lover. ” “ You need not  
 “ doubt it Madam (said *Monalto*)  
 “ a Man who has Courage enough  
 “ to attack you again, after having  
 “ been repulsed, will no doubt en-  
 “ deavour to surmount every other  
 “ Obstacle.”

Company coming in, put an End  
 to their Conversation, and *Monalto*  
 went and acquainted his Friend  
 with his Proceeding. *Lorenzo*,  
 who thought the Billet he had sent  
 to *Melintba* did not convey his  
 Sentiments in a Manner quite clear  
 enough,



enough, resolv'd to write another, which should express his Meaning better. He did so, and trusted it to the Care of *Monalto*, who conveying it to *Melintba*, dropt it out of his Pocket, and ran back to acquaint *Lorenzo* with the Misfortune, who sat down and wrote another, which *Monalto* promised to be more careful of. It contained these Words.

*MR blundering Friend has lost a Letter which convey'd the Sentiments of my Heart to you ; 'tis not enough to tell you that I love you ; that my Eyes have told you every Time I have had the Happiness to*

approach you ; but I love to such a Degree, that every Thing that seems to check my Hopes must feel the Weight of my Discontent ; even this Monalto's Neglect may cost him dear, unless he has Art enough to plead my Cause in such a Manner as to obtain me a favourable Reception. In Pity then to him, give me an Opportunity of telling you, that, adorable as you are, you were never able to inspire a Passion like mine before.

Melintba was not at Home, but being inform'd where she was, he went to her. She was at play, he sat down by her. “ Madam, (says he) “ I am a lucky Fellow ; you’ll cer-  
tainly

“ tainly win if I fit by you.” He took his Opportunity, and slipt the Letter, unperceiv’d by any Body, into her Hand. At her Return she found it seal’d, and without any Direction. Could she have guess’d at the Contents, perhaps she had not open’d it; but Curiosity got the better of her Doubts, and she, without giving herself Time for Reflection, open’d it hastily, but could not fathom the Meaning of his Discontent with *Monalto*; so that she sent for the latter next Morning, to explain the Riddle, and withal, to desire him not to bring any more Letters from *Lorenzo*. As he enter’d the Room, tho’ she was resolv’d



solv'd to rate him soundly for the  
 Liberty he had taken, her Curio-  
 sity got the better of her Resent-  
 ment; and she could not help en-  
 quiring what *Lorenzo* meant by his  
 Complaint of him. " Why, Ma-  
 " dam, (said he) I am a loobily  
 " Sort of a Messenger; he had  
 " charg'd me with a Letter for you,  
 " which, like a Puppy, I lost, and  
 " I find the Price of my Pardon is  
 " the obtaining a favourable An-  
 " swer from you." *Melantha*, who  
 judg'd that the Loss of this Letter  
 might be attended with ugly Con-  
 sequences, at least her becoming a  
 Town-talk, told him she was so far  
 from excusing his Negligence, that  
 if

if he did not recover it, she desir'd  
 he would see her no more. He  
 went, but all his Search was in vain,  
 no Letter to be found. (He came  
 back again to *Melintha* very sor-  
 rowful. “ Madam, (said he) ’tis  
 “ very hard ; must I, for a Misfor-  
 “ tune, disoblige you, and lose my  
 “ Friend. For God’s Sake——  
 “ Well, (said she, interrupting him)  
 “ I’ll make your Peace, tho’ you  
 “ don’t deserve it. To-morrow——  
 “ To-morrow, Madam, (inter-  
 “ rupted he) is an Age ; prithee  
 “ be good-natur’d, write to him  
 “ now, if it is only to desire that  
 “ he would forgive me ; and when  
 “ your Letter has had the desir’d  
 “ Effect,

"Effect, I promise you I'll bring  
 "it back to you." "You are a  
 "comical Sort of Beggar, (said she,  
 "smiling) and what I refuse to  
 "Pity, I find I must grant to Im-  
 "portunity. Well, I will write this  
 "Time, but insist upon your Pro-  
 "mise of bringing back my Let-  
 "ter." Then sat down, and wrote  
 (the following Lines.

*I Write, only to ask Forgiveness for  
 poor Monalto ; but, if I must say  
 more to oblige you to grant my Re-  
 quest, you may, if you please, believe  
 whatever he shall say to you on my  
 Account ; for I believe he is so much  
 my Friend, that he will not say any  
 Thing I should be asham'd to own.*

Lorenzo



Lorenzo found these Lines too obliging to think of parting with them ; he rather chose to expose *Monalto* to her Resentment ; and by him he sent her the following Answer.

*I Wish from my Soul you would as easily grant what I shall ask of you, as I do a Pardon to this Culprit. To such Intercession there is not any Thing I can refuse. I wish a greater Proof of an implicit Obedience to your Commands was to offer itself, how readily should I embrace the happy Opportunity of approving myself the most obedient, as well as the most passionate of your Admirers.*

*Monalto*

*Monalto* was also charg'd to insinuate to her, that the Chevalier seem'd to look upon her as his Property, as he dar'd to prescribe Rules for her Conduct, and presum'd to direct whose Visits she was to refuse, and whose receive; that such Behaviour was more like the Tyranny of a Husband, than the Submission and Resignation of a Lover; that she ought to be alarm'd at such Treatment: But as to *Lorenzo*, he was all Obedience; her Commands to him would always be a Law; that his Passion was so violent no Man had ever felt the like; and if she

she continued her Cruelty, the Con-  
sequence might be fatal to his Friend.

“ All this is very fine, (said she,  
“ laughing;) but pray, if he is so  
“ violently in Love with me, why  
“ so many Visits to *Ardelisa*? Is it  
“ to prevail on her to become a  
“ Suitor to me in his Favour?”

“ Madam, (says *Monalto*) he has  
“ been there but twice or thrice,  
“ and that was owing to his Despair  
“ of prevailing on you to receive  
“ him as his Merit in Fact de-  
“ serv'd; but Repentance soon took  
“ Place, and he now offers you a  
“ Heart which it is impossible any  
I “ other



" other can ever captivate : He is  
 " all Submission for his Fault, and  
 " will atone for it by an unexampled  
 " Fidelity for the future."

*Melintba*, who was afraid of  
 breaking with the Chevalier, sent  
*Lorenzo's* last Letter to a Friend of  
 hers under Cover, that by this seem-  
 ing Confidence she might secure the  
 one, if she should happen to lose  
 the other. The Chevalier, who had  
 his Spies abroad, intercepted the  
 Packet, and *Melintba* in a few Days  
 afterwards set out for the Country.

- Having taken a Copy of *Loren-*  
*zo's* Letter, he destroy'd the Origi-  
 nal; and calling upon his Kinsman,  
 found

found *Monaldo* and he together, and,  
 after some trifling Conversation,  
 “ My Boys, (said he) you are  
 “ younger than I, 'tis true, and  
 “ therefore I shall never pretend to  
 “ dispute a Woman with you, when  
 “ we start fair; but (added he)  
 “ when I have the Advantage of a  
 “ prior Acquaintance, it is not fair  
 “ to endeavour to supplant me:  
 “ The Number of Lovers may feed  
 “ a Woman's Vanity, and she may  
 “ indeed on that Account allow  
 “ some little Liberties; but, soon  
 “ or late, they see their Error, and  
 “ then the new Comers are dis-  
 “ carded—You had promis'd me,  
 “ *Lorenzo*, that you would relin-  
 100 I 2 quish

“quish your Pretension to *Melin-*  
 “*tba*, you have broke your Word,  
 “and yet your Breach of Promise  
 “has been of no Use to you; for  
 “she has communicated all your  
 “Letters to me, the Originals you  
 “shall see when you please, and  
 “here is a Copy of the last.” *Lo-*  
*renzo* and *Monalto* seem’d extremely  
 surpriz’d at *Melintba*’s ill Treatment  
 of them, and could not conceive  
 what could induce her to be at the  
 Pains of all this double-dealing, since  
 certainly a flat Denial would have  
 answer’d the same Purpose. “If  
 “she is a Jilt, (says *Monalto*) d—n  
 “her) you are rightly serv’d. How-  
 “ever, my good Chevalier, you are  
 “not



“ not so secure as you fancy your-  
 “ self, added *Lorenzo*, for she has  
 “ made pretty free with you in your  
 “ Absence; but as I find her ca-  
 “ pable of such base Proceedings,  
 “ you are welcome to her, with all  
 “ my Heart; and if No-body en-  
 “ deavours to disturb your Tran-  
 “ quility but me, you’ll be the hap-  
 “ piest Man in the Universe.”

The Commerce between *Ardelisa*  
 and *Samilar* still continued with  
 seeming Fondness on both Sides, till  
 an Indisposition oblig’d her to go  
 down to ———, for the Benefit of  
 the Waters. He would have at-  
 tended her there, but his having an

Employment at Court, made his Presence necessary in Town; he parted from her with infinite Regret. Several Letters past between them during her Residence at —; but as they all run in the same Strain, we shall insert but two of them. His First to her was in these Terms.

*I* Could not have thought that a few Days Absence should have made me so miserable; the Court is a perfect Solitude. You I find gave Spirit to the whole; my Soul is so rivetted to you, that I cannot live out of your Sight. Either return, or I must throw up my Employment  
and

and follow you, I wish your Uneasiness was equal to mine, because it would be a Proof of your Love; yet forgive me, I cannot wish you Pain; I would not at such a Price purchase Years of Happiness. Write, I conjure you, to me, tell me you are well, and coming up again, or I shall go distracted. Adieu, my Soul's Joy.

The following Answer he received in a few Days.

**E**ITHER I am better, or fancy myself so; Your Letter has given me new Spirits and Great as you paint your Love, be assured it falls



falls infinitely short of mine; if my Uneasiness gives you Pleasure, rest satisfied; for every Minute appears to me a Day, till I see my dear Samilcar again, then I shall repay you for this tedious Absence, by a Profusion of Love; the lazy Minutes shall fly swiftly then, & yet we'll number them with our Kisses as they fly. Farewel.

P. S. I shall return in a few Days, for I find I cannot live without you.

At her Return to Town, they gave an unbounded Loose to all their Joys. Lorenza, who had conceived an

an ill Opinion of *Melantha*, from the Account the Chevalier had given of her, and had retired into the Country, was just then return'd to Town. He renew'd his Addresses to *Ardelisa*; one Night in Conversation with *Lycidas*, who was one of the greatest Subjects in the Kingdom, he painted her in such lively Colours, that *Lycidas* express'd a Desire of being acquainted with her. *Lorenzo* immediately undertook to serve him in the Affair, and in the next Visit he paid her, he did not fail to acquaint her, that *Lycidas* was desirous of being known to her; it may easily be imagin'd, that a Woman who had distributed

10 her

her Favours to People of all Ranks;  
 gladly embrac'd such an Overture.  
 She was so overjoy'd at it, that she  
 could not help telling *Lorenzo* in  
 the Fulness of her Heart, that she  
 should esteem herself the better for  
 the future, as she had been able to  
 make an Impression in the Heart  
 of such a Man as *Lycidas*. But  
 she was extremely mortified, when  
 she found that *Lycidas*, next Day  
 at Court, took very little Notice of  
 her.

*Lorenzo* seeing that the Gudgeon  
 did not snap so readily at the Bait as  
 he expected, chang'd his Intention,  
 and endeavour'd to make a Merit  
 of



of the Honour he intended to procure for her; and as his Attempt of serving her with Lycidas had made him be upon good Terms with her, he did not hesitate at writing the following Letter to her.

**WE** have been labouring in vain; the — does not love you, and Lycidas is afraid to disoblige her. I own this Disappointment is a severe Trial; but be comforted, I have not indeed so noble a Heart to offer you, but I have one that deserves your Notice; this Exchange does not indeed flatter your Ambition, but setting that aside, I can promise you, you'll be no Loser

by

by it; let the Despair of obtaining  
 him throw you into my Arms, and  
 I warrant Love shall keep you  
 there.

*Ardelisa* was extremely piqu'd at  
 the Neglect of *Lycidas*, and ima-  
 gin'd *Lorenzo* had for his own Ends  
 prevented his Application to her;  
 and in order to be reveng'd of him,  
 and the better to secure *Samilear*,  
 who had been alarm'd at the —'s  
 Design, she gave him *Lorenzo's*  
 Letter.

*Lorenzo*, who had had no Answer  
 to his Letter, waited upon *Ardeli-  
 sa*; but Company coming in, he  
 could

could not come to an Explanation with her; but observ'd, that she took particular Notice of him; in Fact, upon observing him closely, she found him so handsome a Fellow, that she began to repent her having expos'd his Letter to *Samilar*. Next Day he waited on her again, and finding a favourable Opportunity, he began to speak of Love; but as Things began to take a favourable Turn, Company came in again, and he was oblig'd to withdraw.

*Ardelisa* having dispatched her Visitors, took Coach and went to *Melintba's*, in order to find out up-

K

on



on what Footing she stood with *Lorenzo*; and after some Chit-chat upon different Occasions, she came to the Point; but all she could get out of her was, that *Lorenzo* had never made any serious Proposal to her, and therefore she did not consider herself as under any Engagement to him.

*Monalto*, though he had a sincere Regard for *Lorenzo*, could not help seeing his Friend's Attachment to *Ardelisa*, without some Sort of Uneasiness; as he had form'd some Designs on her himself, and to this perhaps as much as to his Friendship, we may impute the great Zeal with which he serv'd him

with

with *Melantha*. He had not indeed been so well received as his Merit, and her Inclination for new Lovers, gave him Room to expect; his ill Success was not owing to her returning Virtue, or the Coldness of her Constitution, but to his having made Choice of an unlucky Season. He never indeed made direct Addresses to her; but had thrown out such Hints, as a Woman of her Penetration in these Matters, would soon have taken, had she not been pre-engag'd. She was then in full Possession of *Samilcar*, or rather of *Samilcar's* Riches, for his Person had lost the Charms of Novelty; but his Estate enabled her to appear

with Pomp, which *Monalto's* could by no Means do. And notwithstanding *Samilcar* was a Man in more Shapes than one fit for her Purpose, no sooner had *Lorenzo* made Mention of *Lycidas* to her, than all the Woman took Possession of her Soul. She then consider'd *Samilcar*, as every Way her Inferior; but being disappointed, as has been mentioned above, in her Hopes of Grandeur, she saw more Charms in *Lorenzo*, than perhaps he was in Reality possess'd of. However, as he had really much the Advantage of *Lycidas* in point of Person, and being Master of a considerable Fortune, she found Motives enough to encourage



encourage her Infidelity to *Samil-*  
*car*.

*Monalto*, whose Friendship for  
*Lorenzo* was not lessen'd, by his be-  
 lieving him upon good Terms with  
*Ardelisa*, was extremely chagrin'd  
 to observe, that his Friend was more  
 upon the Reserve than usual, re-  
 solv'd if possible to find out the  
 Cause. He therefore call'd upon  
 him one Morning, "*Lorenzo* (said  
 " he) I have taken Notice with infi-  
 " nite Concern, that you have for  
 " some Time avoided me? What  
 " can Occasion this Coldness, what  
 " have I done to merit it? If you  
 " have had Success with *Ardelisa*,

“ I heartily rejoice at it, though I  
 “ shall frankly own to you, that I  
 “ had some Designs upon her my-  
 “ self; but I very freely sacrifice  
 “ all my Pretensions to my Friend.  
 “ Let me know I conjure, what  
 “ has occasion’d this Alteration in  
 “ your Behaviour.” “ My dear Friend,  
 “ (said *Lorenzo*) I was in the  
 “ Wrong to suspect your Friend-  
 “ ship; I have tried it, and ought  
 “ not to have kept any Thing a  
 “ Secret from you; I ask your Par-  
 “ don for my injurious Silence; but  
 “ you are to know, that *Ardelisa*,  
 “ in granting me some Liberties,  
 “ gave me a Charge to keep it a  
 “ Secret from you, as well as from  
 “ *Melintba*,

“ *Melintha*, because she says you  
 “ are a dangerous Man, and *Me-*  
 “ *lintha* jealous; but in order to  
 “ make amends for my keeping the  
 “ Affair secret from you, I shall  
 “ now inform you of every minute  
 “ Circumstance. You must know  
 “ things, that after the Letter I had  
 “ wrote to her, which I shew’d you,  
 “ I paid her a Visit; her Looks  
 “ neither fed my Hopes, nor gave  
 “ me Cause for Despair; tho’ Com-  
 “ pany prevented our coming to a  
 “ right Understanding. All that  
 “ I then perceived was, that she  
 “ took particular Notice of me,  
 “ ey’d me from Head to Foot.  
 “ Next Day I was more successful,



" I found her alone, in a loose  
 " Dress, her Hair flowing loosely  
 " round her Shoulders; she ap-  
 " pear'd more beautiful, I thought,  
 " than I had ever seen her before.  
 " Desire sat smiling in her Eye, and  
 " every Gesture seem'd to proclaim  
 " her Wishes; this embolden'd  
 " me, I flew to her Arms, and that  
 " Instant would have crown'd my  
 " Wishes, had we not heard  
 " Company coming up. She de-  
 " fired me to come again at Six  
 " o'Clock, in the Disguise of a  
 " Milliner, with a Band-Box under  
 " my Arm. Well (said she) as  
 " I enter'd the Room, you see I  
 " lay aside Ceremony, I hate te-  
 " dious

"rious Affairs mortally; you say  
 "you love me, I have no Objec-  
 "tion to you, and it will not be  
 "my Fault if we do not spend  
 "our Time as agreeably as any  
 "two People in the Kingdom.  
 "I have taken Care to dispose of  
 "my Servants, (added she) and  
 "there is little Apprehension of  
 "any Interruption, at least for  
 "Half an Hour. I must have  
 "been as dull as Idiorism itself, if  
 "I had not understood the Mean-  
 "ing of those Words; indeed I  
 "did but too well. But, strange Fa-  
 "tality ! my Power had forsaken  
 "me, and it should seem as if I  
 "had chang'd my Sex with my  
 "Dress;

" Dress; for I found none of that,  
 " Ardour, none of that tingo-  
 " rating Warmth, which the Touch  
 " of a fine Woman gives; all  
 " about me was cold and languid,  
 " dead, and heavy. I curs'd my-  
 " self a Thousand Times; she re-  
 " new'd her Caresses; this added  
 " to my Confusion, which she soon  
 " guess'd the Cause of. What Sir  
 " (said she) with some Indignation,  
 " a'n't you well, I perhaps you want  
 " a Caudle; a Nurse will be ex-  
 " tremely useful to you, I'll send  
 " my Maid to comfort you, and  
 " administer such Relief! as you  
 " may stand in need of. (So saying,  
 " she flung out of the Room, dart-  
 " ing



“ ing a Look of Scorn and Con-  
 “ tempt at me, which I shall never  
 “ forget. Next Morning I receiv’d  
 “ a Billet from her;” and pulling  
 out his Pocket-book, gave it *Mo-*  
*nalto* to read.

*AFTER* the extreme Fatigue  
 you underwent Yesterday, I  
 am apprehensive your Health may  
 be in Danger. Take Care of your-  
 self, my Hercules, if you value the  
 asure or Repose of —.

“ This little Stroke of Irony, said  
 “ Lorenzo, cut me to the Quick;  
 “ I resolv’d I would make another  
 “ Effort, to save my Reputation;  
 “ and

“ and accordingly wrote her the following Lines.”

*HAD I been guilty of Murder,  
Treason, Sacrilege, and a thousand other Crimes, I might perhaps have hop'd Forgiveness for the — of Yesterday, never, there must have been Magick in the Case; some Daemon, envious of my approaching Bliss, robb'd me of those Faculties by which I might have tasted such a Degree of Happiness as none but Ardelisa can bestow. This was indeed the Curse of Tantalus. Have you Courage enough, my Adorable, to give me an Opportunity of redeeming my Honour. If I do not make good my Engagements, I consent to suffer  
the*

*the worst of all Torments, that of  
never more seeing Ardelisa.*

“ Will you believe me, *Monalto*?

“ I went the next Evening, had the  
“ same Opportunity, and yet had  
“ no more Success. What mali-  
“ cious Devil thus robs me of my  
“ Power! I have made many a  
“ coarse Meal with a strong Appe-  
“ tite; here perhaps the Banquet  
“ was too luscious; however it was  
“ I know not, but I made a  
“ worse Figure if possible than be-  
“ fore; she loaded me with Re-  
“ proaches; and, as I knew I de-  
“ serv'd them, I hasted away in the  
“ utmost Confusion. At a third

L

“ Inter-



“ Interview, which I obtained by  
 “ Dint of Money to her Maid, I  
 “ broke the Charm, and am now  
 “ upon as good Terms as if I had  
 “ never fail’d in my Duty. This Con-  
 “ fession is a Sacrifice to Friend-  
 “ ship, but ’tis High-Treason to  
 “ Love ; therefore *Monalto* your  
 “ Discretion need not be reminded  
 “ how necessary it is to keep such  
 “ an Affair a Secret.”

*Lorenzo* had not been long upon  
 good Terms with *Ardelisa*, when  
*Samilcar* got Scent of it. Jealousy  
 in him supply’d the Defect of Un-  
 derstanding. He found her excessive  
 Fondness began to abate ; he com-  
 plain’d

plain'd of her Indifference, at first in mild Terms, and at last with Reproaches, mixt with Bitterness. The Heedlessness of her Temper made her careless in her Behaviour to him ; she treated his Suspicions with Raillery, but took no care to remove them. In short, she became indiscreet with *Lorenzo* ; and *Samilcar*, to be reveng'd on them both, expos'd all her Letters, and particularly that which *Lorenzo* had wrote to *Ardelisa*, in which he acquainted her with the Reasons why *Lycidas* look'd but coolly on her, and had treated both him and the ——— with some Freedom. The Reader may remember that *Ardelisa* had given this Letter

to *Samilcar*, little imagining, we may suppose, he would ever have made such a Use of it.

The —, who, for some particular Reasons, did not love *Lorenzo*, no sooner had the Letter in her Hands, than she shewed it to *Lycidas*, who she knew had a great Regard for him, expecting that this Imprudence of his would make him withdraw his Affection. *Lycidas* shew'd no other Resentment than to tell the Earl of —, who was Uncle to *Lorenzo*, that his Nephew was an imprudent young Fellow; he forgave him, but should be cautious for the future how he trusted him



him with any Secrets. “ But (added  
 “ he) should the —— know that he  
 “ has made free with her Name on  
 “ such an Occasion, perhaps she  
 “ may not pass it over so slightly.”

Whilst *Samilcar* indulg'd the ill-natur'd Satisfaction of exposing *Ardelisa's* Letters, she was not behind-hand with him, for she shew'd some of his, which were of Consequence; one of which had like to have put a Stop to his Marriage with one of the richest Heiresses in the Kingdom, which, in his Time of Dalliance with this fair Wanton, he had imprudently sent her. It ran thus.

L 3

YOU

YOU ought to pity the Constraint  
 I am under, and not accuse me  
 of Indifference. You know that three  
 or four Times a Week I am obliged  
 to visit Miss ———, where a View  
 of Interest obliges me to speak the  
 Language of Love, and my Lips say  
 to her what my Heart means to you.  
 At any Time it must be Punishment  
 enough to entertain a Baby, but now  
 I am really to be pity'd, being ob-  
 lig'd to waste that Time with her,  
 which might be spent so happily with  
 you. What gives me Courage to sup-  
 port this is, that as I believe I shall  
 never get the better of my Indifference  
 for her I shall be more at Lei-  
 sure after our Marriage, to be-  
 stow

*flow my Time where I have already  
given my Heart.*

This Letter made a good deal of Noise. Indiscreet Men in such Matters were pretty common, but such Indiscretion in a Woman was very extraordinary. People were at a Loss to account how a Woman could be imprudent enough, in order to be reveng'd of a Man, to take such Pains to prove her own Guilt.

It had not however the Effect that she promised herself: Sir —, an old rich Baronet, who was Grandfather to the young Lady, being shewn the Letter, said he saw no great Matter in the Affair, it contained nothing  
but



but Words of Course from a young Fellow to his Mistress; that *Samilcar* was right in amusing himself with so fine a Woman before Marriage; that it was no new Thing for Men to speak with Indifference of their Wives, to feed the Vanity of a Strumpet; but these Kind of Engagements were seldom of long Duration; it was plain that that of *Samilcar* for *Ardelisa* was at an End; that this Affair should be no Objection to his Consent; and the only Fruit the Lady could reap from her Malice, was only to put it out of the Power of her Friends to vindicate her Character.

Things

Things were in this Situation when *Lorenzo* one Night paid a Visit to *Melintba*. After some indifferent Things, she desired him to thank his Friend *Frankville* for some Favours she said she had received from him; and as we shall have Occasion to speak of this Man hereafter, we may be allowed to give a Character of him in this Place.

*Frankville* was a Native of —, whose Family had been raised to the highest Employments in the Law. He was of a middle Size, had a mean Aspect, did not want Wit, well enough as to his Person, but of  
an

an awkward Carriage. He was a bustling Man, haughty to his Inferiors, but shew'd a servile Complaisance to those above him. He embark'd in Love-Affairs more out of Ostentation than any Regard he had for Women. He had had two or three Amours, the last of which was with *Angelica*, who had receiv'd his Addresses more out of Regard to her Interest, than out of Affection to the Man; and as this is a very extraordinary Woman, we shall introduce her upon the Stage.

She was the Daughter of a Nobleman, who had lost his Life on Account of a Rebellion against *Theodosius*.



*sus.* She was tall, of an easy Carriage, her Face oval, her Eyes black and piercing, her Hair of the same Colour, a bewitching Smile, and of a soft, easy, insinuating Manner; and when she had a Mind to please, it was impossible to be guarded against her. She had many bad Qualities, was covetous to the last Degree, and for Money would have sacrificed Fame, Father, Mother, Husband, and Friends. *Lycidas* became enamour'd of her, but *Leonto*, who paid his Addresses to her, entreated him to desist, as his was an Affair of mere Gallantry, whereas he himself courted her for Marriage. *Lycidas*, who had a Friendship for *Leonto*,

onta, promis'd, as his Affection was but in the Bud, he would relinquish his Pretensions, and assist him with all his Power, to bring about the Match. He did so, and in a few Weeks after they were married.

Soon after their Marriage she fell ill, and was advised by her Physicians to go down and drink the Waters at ——. Here *Lysander* fell in Love with her. He was a tall, genteel Figure, extremely polite, and had a Dignity peculiar to himself, even in the most trifling Actions; a sprightly Wit, and the most engaging Manner imaginable. Familiar Visits, which the Custom of those

those Places has established as a Rule,  
gave *Lysander* Opportunities enough  
to declare his Passion.

*Angelica* had conceiv'd a very favourable Opinion of *Lysander*, and had Custom authorized Women to speak first, she had not waited for his Declaration. She however had Prudence enough to conceal her Sentiments, well knowing that Difficulty enhances the Prize in Love Affairs. The first Visit he paid her was interrupted by *Leonto*, and a third Person coming, prevented any Thing further at that Time; but next Morning he sent her the following Letter.

M

*I Love*



**I** Left you with infinite Concern, at being oblig'd to suppress my Thoughts. I was observ'd, and was afraid even my Silence should have betray'd me; but a Woman of your Judgment must have read my Heart. There Madam you must have seen Angelica wrote in large Characters. Give me an Opportunity, I beseech you, of assuring you, that neither Time nor Accident can efface the Impression you have made.

Angelica was a good deal puzzled on reading this Letter; she was at a Loss how to act; Severity, she

thought would endanger the Loss of  
*Lyfander's* Heart, and too easy a  
 Compliance his Esteem. She at  
 last undertook the more difficult  
 Task; she refused to hearken to  
 the Dictates of her Heart, and pur-  
 sued these of her Reason. She  
 therefore made him no Answer, and  
 next Morning as he enter'd the  
 Room, " Sir (says she) are you  
 " come to repeat your Offence;  
 " though I like your Visits, I dis-  
 " approve of the Liberty you take.  
 " Know that where I have given  
 " my Hand, I have given my  
 " Heart also; if you confine your  
 " Visits within proper Bounds, I shall  
 " think myself honour'd by your  
 M 2 " Friend-

" Friendship; if not, my Duty to  
 " *Leonto* obliges me to forbid  
 " them."

This was a Thunderstroke to  
*Lysander*, who little expected such a  
 Reception; but after recovering  
 himself a little; " Madam said he)  
 " if I offend, blame my Stars, the  
 " Offence is involuntary, I cannot  
 " help loving you; all that I can  
 " promise is, that it shall not ex-  
 " ceed the Bounds of Decency;  
 " and it would be cruel to refuse  
 " me that which you must grant  
 " to all Mankind without the high-  
 " est Degree of Injustice." " If  
 " Stars (said she) have the Guidanee  
 " of



“ of Love Affairs, you must pati-  
 “ ently wait till mine have directed  
 “ my Affections in another Man-  
 “ ner. At present they have point-  
 “ ed out *Leonto* as the only Ob-  
 “ ject of my Choice.” “ I shall  
 “ not Madam (said he) presume to  
 “ dispute *Leonto's* Merit; but sure  
 “ you may, without Injustice to  
 “ him, allow me a small Share  
 “ of your Esteem.” “ I dare own  
 “ (said she) that you are already  
 “ possessor of that, and I hope  
 “ your Conduct will never make  
 “ me ashamed of giving it to you.”  
 “ Even on these Terms, Ma-  
 “ dam, hard as they are, I accept  
 “ your Conditions; perhaps Time

“ may convince you that I deserve  
 “ something more ;” Leave it to  
 “ Time then (reply’d she briskly)  
 “ he often performs Wonders.”

Though *Lyfander* seemed under  
 some Concern at the first Declara-  
 tion of *Angelica*, he soon reco-  
 ver’d himself. He was a perfect  
 Master in the Art of Love, knew  
 the Fort and Foible of every Wo-  
 man ; and having consider’d her  
 attentively, perceiv’d nothing to  
 damp his Hopes. He saw her migh-  
 ty Pretensions to Virtue, and Re-  
 gard for her Husband, was all Affec-  
 tation. The Veil tha tclouded her  
 Hypocrisy, was too thin to hide it  
 from

from his Penetration ; he resolv'd however, to humour her, and affected the humble, suppliant, distant Lover. This catch'd her Pride, and she suck'd large Draughts of Love ; insomuch, that had he taken Advantage of his Power over her, she must have been oblig'd to make Advances ; but he spar'd her this Confusion, and pursu'd the Plan he had laid down of humouring her Folly. He affected the most distant Behaviour ; but his Looks inform'd her sufficiently of his Meaning. He wrote her several Letters, all full of the most profound Respect ; and made his Approaches so regularly, that she be-

gan



gan to repent she had given Occasion to this tedious Manner of Proceeding. *Lyfander* read her Mind, and found there would be no great Difficulty in gaining his Point; but lest some little Spark of remaining Pride should alarm her Reason, he forebore coming to an Explanation. But having her on his Hook, he play'd her gently up and down the Stream, resolv'd not to make the Attempt till he was certain there was no Possibility of his miscarrying in it.

Things remained some Time in this Situation, when *Ardelisa* made her Appearance at the Baths; and  
that

that Appearance put the finishing Hand to this Affair. For whether by Accident or Design, *Lysander* had fix'd his Eyes attentively on her at the Assembly, in a Manner that seem'd to indicate a Beginning of Love.

*Angelica*, who was constitutionally warm, began to be tired of these Delays; besides, she knew *Ardelisa*, and knew that if *Lysander* made the least Overture in that Quarter, she might be in Danger of losing him; for *Ardelisa*, she knew, was not over-nice in her Choice of Lovers; the united Force of Youth and Riches

was

was not to be withstood, where each separately had often triumph'd over her fair Friend's Discretion.

To this fear of losing him then, may be imputed the Resolution she took of bringing Matters to a speedy Conclusion; and that in such a Manner, as if Accident had more Share in it than Design.

Having mentioned in a careless Manner, her Intention of taking an Airing pretty early next Morning, on the Downs that surround that Place, she had scarce made her Appearance on the Hills, when *Lyfander* met her. She seem'd a good



good deal surpriz'd. " Lord (said  
 " she) how came you here ! You  
 " astonish me. What will People  
 " say, at seeing us together so early  
 " this Morning ? E'en what they  
 " will Madam, let them babble as  
 " long as they please ; Beauty has  
 " always been a Prey for Scandal to  
 " feed on ; you must not there-  
 " fore be surpriz'd, if you afford  
 " Matter of Conversation to to  
 " People of this Turn. " That's a  
 " genteel Compliment (said she)  
 " but does it not look like wander-  
 " ing out of the Road of Friend-  
 " ship and striking into the Path of  
 " Love." Her drawing him insensibly  
 upon this Subject, appear'd too much

like Design for a Man of his Penetration not to observe; he plainly perceiv'd his Work was half done, and took his Measures accordingly.

This was one of those fine Mornings, which throws a Gladness around the Heart of Man. The Sun shone, but darted his Rays so obliquely, as rather to please, than to offend. The Elevation of the Downs affords one of the richest Prospects that the Mind can conceive. At the Foot of the Hill, a gentle River runs meandering in its Course through Woods, Lawns, Fields and Gardens; where  
leaving

leaving one City, it soon visits another, and falls into the Sea.

Such Scenes feasting the Eye, and playing upon the Imagination, are useful Auxiliaries to Love. They soften the Heart, and make it ready to receive those Impressions, which at other Times it might be Proof against. Thus it far'd with our Lovers; for riding through a Copse, their Hearts being wound up at the same Time, and the Lovers Hour come, they struck together.

A little Cottage was provided for the Hours of Dalliance, and those

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little



little Excursions became so frequent, that *Leonto* began to suspect something; he communicated his Notions to a particular Friend, who undertook to make some Remonstrances to *Angelica* upon her Conduct.

“ Madam (said he) the Friendship subsisting between *Leonto* and me, and the Regard I have for his Honour, will excuse the Liberty I am going to take.”

She was a little startled at this odd Kind of Preface; but however, she let him proceed. “ It is impossi-

“ ble (continued he) but so fine a Woman as you are must have many

“ Admi-

“ Admirers; and though No-body  
 “ presumes that you have gone any  
 “ criminal Lengths, yet the Honour  
 “ of a Husband is extremely ten-  
 “ der, and the Breath of Suspicion  
 “ immediately tarnishes it; it is not  
 “ enough that you are not vicious,  
 “ the Appearance of it ought to be  
 “ avoided.”

The Manner of the Gentle-  
 man's introducing his Discourse  
 had alarm'd her, as she was appre-  
 hensive some Discoveries had been  
 made; but as soon as she found  
 she was secure on that Head, she  
 began to treat him in a very Cavalier  
 Manner. “ By what Authority

“ Sir do you presume to prescribe  
 “ Rules for my Conduct? In sub-  
 “ mitting to the Will and Ca-  
 “ price of a Husband, must I also  
 “ bear the Impertinence of every  
 “ Acquaintance of his? If your  
 “ Wife’s Conduct is not agreeable  
 “ to you, Custom authorizes you  
 “ to lord it over her; but none of  
 “ your officious Counsels here. I  
 “ am the Guardian of my own  
 “ Honour, shall act agreeable to the  
 “ Dictates of my Reason, with-  
 “ out considering whether the  
 “ Pleasures I take may be agreeable  
 “ to any officious Adviser.” So  
 saying, she flung out of the Room  
 with all the Air of injured Virtue,

and



and left the Gentleman extremely  
disconcerted, and being told, that the  
Rogues were the very Night of

She made however, a proper  
Use of this Discovery of her Hus-  
band's Suspicion, and took her Mea-  
sures so well with *Lysander*, that  
though their Meetings were as fre-  
quent as ever, yet they were carried  
on with so much Caution, as to  
escape the prying Eye of Jealousy  
itself.

*Leonto* was soon after taken ill  
of a Fever, which carried him off  
in a few Days. *Angelica* deceiv'd  
the World; for she griev'd, or seem'd  
to grieve, immoderately for his Loss;

but so far was this Affliction from being real, that she gave *Lysander* a Rendezvous the very Night of her Husband's Interment. *Lucilla*, Maid to *Angelica*, who was courted by *Leonto's* Gentleman, apprehensive that the Death of the Master would ruin the Hopes of her Spark, interrupted the Felicity of our Lovers, by her frequent Sighs. *Lysander*, finding the Motives of her Grief, promis'd that he would take Care and make a Provision for her Sweetheart; and as an Earnest of what he would do for her, presented her with a Purse of Gold. The Girl, who had been a little hurt by the Indelicacy of her Mistress chusing

find such a Time for an Affair of Gallantry, had her Scruples quite laid aside by *Lyfander's* Generosity; she gave them the Opportunity of a long *tete a tete*, which was improv'd to the Satisfaction of each Party.

The Death of *Leonto* brought a Train of Admirers to *Angelica*; and amongst the rest, a dignified Churchman, presuming upon the Merit of having been the Means of prevailing upon an old rich Aunt of *Angelica*, to make a Will in her Favour, made a Tender of his Services. Considering the Obligation she lay under to him, she gave him a favourable Reception. This alarm'd



Isaac'd *Lyfander*, who reproach'd  
*Angelica* for her Levity. She ma-  
 nag'd the Affairs so well, as to con-  
 vince him of the Necessity she  
 was under of keeping upon good  
 Terms with the other. But upon  
 the Death of the Aunt, which  
 happen'd soon after, and conse-  
 quently the remov'd Motive for the  
 favourable Reception of his Rival  
 ceasing, he came to an Explanation  
 with *Angelica*, and told her, that  
 his Affection for her was of so de-  
 licate a Nature, that he could not  
 content himself with only a Share  
 in her Heart; that either she must  
 dismiss the Priest, or he must be  
 under the disagreeable Necessity of  
 taking

taking a final Leave of her : Then bowing respectfully, he took his Leave.

She was some Time divided ; the Churchman promis'd much ; but his Liberality she had never tasted.

*Lysander*, on the other Hand, was generous, and as a Lover, she knew his Abilities. She therefore determin'd to sacrifice the Priest, and keep the Man whom she had no Reason to complain of. She therefore wrote him the following Letter.

*Had your Departure not been quite so abrupt, you should then have been*

been inform'd, that though Gratitude made me give a favourable Reception to him, you suppose your Rival, my Heart had no Share in it; he is banish'd, I wish the Task had been harder, that I might then lay some Claim to the Merit of obliging you.

Peace being thus restor'd, their Commerce went on uninterrupted for some Time; but at a Visit he made to a Nobleman in the Country, I ~~Louisa~~ fell in Love with him; her Rank made this Distinction in his Favour so remarkable, it flatter'd his Ambition, but yet Love had no Share in it. The  
Over-



Overtures came from her, and his Pride made him receive them, though his Heart was *Angelica's*; he however, gave Way to her Importunities, and she did not long sigh in vain.

In an Hour of amorous toying, she ask'd him upon what Terms he stood with *Angelica*?  
 "Upon the Terms of Friendship,"  
 "Madam (said he) and no more."  
 "Then I am lost (said she) you  
 "love me not; or you would not,  
 "as we are thus circumstanc'd,  
 "have the Power of concealing the  
 "Truth." This Affair was not of  
 long Duration, for *Louisa* was far  
 from

from being handsome, and her Breath was somewhat offensive; the Novelty had indeed prevail'd on him to engage in it; but that once over, his Mind ran on *Angelica* again; he return'd to Town, and was received with all the Demonstrations of Love; but their Commerce was attended with ugly Consequences. She prov'd with Child, and apply'd to a Person skilful in that Way, in order to procure an Abortion.

During the Time she was employ'd in this laudable Undertaking, *Lycidas* came to Court, and *Angelica's* first Appearance rekindled his Love.

Love. His Friend *Mauritius* encouraged him in the Affair, from a Motive of Revenge on *Lyfander*, had who robb'd him of the Heart of *Louisa*.

*Angelica* was not quite recover'd from her Indisposition, when *Lycidas* felt his Flame renew; in a little Time after her Recovery, he settled an Estate of Five Hundred Pounds a Year upon her. So genteel a Compliment was not receiv'd by her with Indifference, as it was the strongest Proof of his Attachment to her; she made no more Resistance, than just what Decency required, and then crown'd his

O                      Wishes.



Wishes. Thus was *Mauritius* amply reveng'd of *Lysander* for supplanting him in *Louisa's* Favour; and the Revenge was the more compleat, as *Mauritius* never had a violent Passion for *Louisa*, and that *Lysander* was more than ever in Love with *Angelica*:

*Lysander's* Resentment upon this Occasion mistook its Object; for instead of reproaching his Mistress as her Infidelity deserv'd, he vented all his Rage upon his Rival, and was often upon the Point of calling him to Account; but aw'd by his superior Rank, that Thought soon died away; yet, notwithstanding *Angelica's*

*lica's* Behaviour, she had still some Remains of Tenderneſs for *Lyſander*, and at his Requeſt went to her Country-seat, as ſhe did not imagine that a ſhort Abſence could be prejudicial to her Affairs with *Lycidas*; and likewise promis'd him to diſcharge her Maid, who had forſook his Interests, and had engag'd in thoſe of his Rival: But at her Return, the Love of Change and of Ambition, ſo natural to her, ſoon got the better of her, and ſhe gave viſible Marks of her Preference in Favour of *Lycidas*. This Preference ought naturally to have inſpir'd *Lyſander* with Contempt for her Levity; but it had a quite con-

trary Effect ; for his Passion rather encreas'd, and he had actually resolv'd to have been reveng'd on *Lycidas*, when a Duel about political Affairs put an End to his Life.

*Angelica*, who, of a thousand Lovers, never had any real Regard for any but *Lysander*, was inconsolable for his Loss, and she now felt the Grief she affected at the Death of her Husband.

*Lycidas*, who had a very great Friendship for *Lysander*, tho' he probably would have forsaken him for a worthless Woman, no sooner was inform'd of his Death, than  
his



his Love for *Angelica* turn'd to Hatred. He consider'd her as the Cause of his Death, and ever after treated her with the utmost Contempt.

Indeed, had that Accident not happened, it is more than probable that she must soon have lost her Power over him; for *Ardelisa* appear'd again at Court, from a long Absence in the Country. She had made the Tour of the Kingdom with a young Nobleman, who had lately come of Age. She no sooner appear'd, than she had a Swarm of fresh Lovers, and, amongst the rest, *Lycidas*. *Camillo* also enter'd the

Lifts, as well as *Benvollo*. *Mefirus*, who had ingratiated himself into her Favour by some Services he had done her, had likewise some Pretensions. Upon the Merit of these Services, and their former Intimacy, he presumed one Day to give her some Advice in Regard to the Conduct she ought to observe with her Lovers. She took this Freedom so ill, that she flatly told him she wanted neither him nor his Advice; and the greatest Pleasure he could do her, would be never to darken her Doors again. He obey'd, but vow'd Revenge whenever the Opportunity should fall in his Way.

He

He kept his Word, for he went to *Lenox*, the Husband of *Ardelisa*, and informed him of every Thing he knew, and much more. He, who had seen his Wife's Irregularities with little Concern, could not bear the Recital, but meditated a severe Revenge upon her, and all her Lovers; which he put in Practice in the following Manner.

He went to a noted House of Pleasure, and having call'd for the Mother Abbess, desir'd to know if she could furnish him with the Sort of Goods he wanted. She told him she had the greatest Variety  
then



then that ever she had in her Life,  
 of all Sizes, Ages, and Complexions,  
 and all perfectly found. "That's  
 "not the Thing, (said he) I must  
 "have one that is not so." "Not  
 "found! Sir, (said she;) what do  
 "you mean?" "I tell you, (says  
 "he) I must have one that is not  
 "found; and moreover, a com-  
 "mon Degree of Infection will not  
 "serve my Turn." Lord bless me!  
 "Sir, (says she) you must be mad."  
 "Ay, that may be, (replied he)  
 "but I must have such a one, or  
 "none at all." "You certainly  
 "joke! Sir, (said she) but if you  
 "were serious, I know not where  
 "I can get such a one." "Then  
 "my

“ my Business is over here, (said  
 “ he;) but as I have given you this  
 “ Trouble, there’s a Couple of Gui-  
 “ neas for you.” He was going  
 away, but she call’d him back. “ I  
 “ cannot guess Sir, said she, what  
 “ your Meaning can be, but ———”  
 “ But what then! (said he) it is  
 “ not my Intention that you should  
 “ be acquainted with my Purpose;  
 “ all I have to say is, that if you  
 “ can help me to such a Woman as  
 “ I want, I shall reward you libe-  
 “ rally.” The good Woman thought  
 she might as well sell a Medlar as a  
 Peach; and recollecting herself, “ I  
 “ have, says she, now I think  
 “ on’t, a poor Girl, that has been  
 “ in-

“ injur’d by a Sea-Officer ; it was a  
 “ vile Thing of him ; the Girl  
 “ trusted to his Honour ; but, I  
 “ am afraid, she is rather too  
 “ far gone, for I intended sending  
 “ her to the Lock To-morrow.”  
 “ So much the better, (said he)  
 “ let me see her.” She was in-  
 troduced, and he found her fit for  
 his Purpose. He pass’d the Night  
 with her, and having received a  
 sufficient Degree of Infection, he  
 feign’d a Reconciliation with his  
 Wife, and to prove the Sincerity of  
 it, lay with her for some Nights.

It



It may easily be imagin'd with what View he undertook this painful Task, and the End fully answered his Expectation. Satisfied that he had communicated the Infection to her, he left it to operate as he intended.

In the Course of a few Weeks, she had given the Disorder to many; they again oblig'd, some their Wives, and some their Mistresses, with this valuable Present, who communicated it to others; so that in a short Time, a great Part of the Court became infected. The Contagion having spread, and the Husband having no Measures to keep,

keep, took Care that the Cause of it should not be a Secret. Those who were not hurt by it, applauded his Revenge, and laugh'd at those that were. The Affair becoming publick, she was forbid the Court; which had no other Effect on her, than to make her less careful of saving Appearances; for no sooner was her Cure effected, than she began to cast about for new Adventurers.

*Angelica*, who was now perfectly recover'd from her late Indisposition, seem'd highly pleas'd at the Mortification *Ardelisa* had receiv'd; and she found her Account in it,

as

as it drew a Number of Admirers  
to her, whom the Conduct of the  
other had disgusted. The Cheva-  
lier *d'Agremonte* was one of the  
foremost, who had not long  
Reason to complain of Cruelty;  
and three Months saw the Birth  
Reward and Death of his Passion.  
A young Officer of the Guards  
stepp'd into her Favour, who had  
no other Merit than that of a fine  
Person; which so disgusted the  
Chevalier, that he withdrew, and  
left her to solace in the Embraces of  
her new Lover. The Pleasure of  
Novelty ceasing, by frequent Enjoy-  
ment, she soon grew tired of this  
young Blade; and after taking a

P

Round



Round of Pleasure, with different  
People, she suddenly disappear'd.

About this Time, a young Beauty appear'd at Court; on whose Character Malice, could lay no Hold. She was a middle Rank in Life, but had been introduced by a Nobleman on his Return from the Government of ———. She had a Nobleness of Mien, which gave the Lie to her Birth; was tall beyond the common Size; a certain Sprightliness, and Languor in her Eyes, which gave Desires, and kept them up alive; her Hair was black, and her Skin of that exquisite Whiteness, that Fancy itself, can hardly

hardly paint any Thing more so. It is not surprizing, if such a Figure drew the Attention of the Men, and caus'd some Heart-burnings in the other Sex. The Governor had the Views of an Eastern Bascha, in bringing over this young *Circasian*; he intended her as a Present for the Sultan; but *Theodosias*, who seldom gave into this Kind of Folly, was now arriv'd to that Stage of Life, when such an Engagement would have been ridiculous. She was then left to the Butterflies of Court to flutter about. *Samilcar* offer'd to settle a fine Estate upon her; but on such Conditions as she rejected. *Frankville*,

though naturally vain, could not hope to succeed, where one every Way his Superior had miscarried. He attempted it however, and threw every Bait in her Way, that could flatter her Ambition except the very Point she aim'd at; the Man was indifferent, but a Title she was in love with; and he who were one, was sure of being well receiv'd. He openly declar'd himself her Lover, and the World gave her up for lost; but Ambition was the prevailing Passion reigning in her Breast, and that perhaps as much as Virtue sav'd her from the Danger that threatned. She receiv'd his Visits, as seeming not to under-



understand the Meaning of them, and he knowing the Cause of *Samilcar's* Miscarriage, was not willing to come to an Explanation: she play'd him on and off, like a skilful Angler; and when she found she had him fast, she desired him to explain the Motive of his Visits; if honourable, she would endeavour to merit his Attention; if otherwise, she knew how to resent it.

This *Eclaircissement*, for which he was not prepar'd, threw him into some Confusion; he would have given the Conversation a Turn of Gallantry, but she pinn'd him down

to the Argument. "My Lord  
 " (said she) you must declare your-  
 " self, for the World begins to  
 " take Notice of your frequent  
 " Visits." And seeing him a little  
 " embarrass'd, " You shall not say  
 " (added she) that I take you un-  
 " prepar'd; next Time you see me,  
 " let me know your Mind."

*Ardelise*, who had now recover'd  
 her Bloom, began to move again in  
 the Sphere of Love. She had long  
 had a Design upon *Frankville*; but  
 her Appetite receiv'd a keener Edge,  
 by the Pleasure she should have in  
 robbing *Alicia*. (such was the  
 Name of the Beauty we have  
 describ'd)

describ'd) of such a Lover as *Frankville*. She therefore spread her Snares for him. He, 'tis true, was smitten by *Alicia*; but he was a Man of Pleasure, and as *Ardelisa* was a Woman of little Ceremony in Affairs of Love, Matters were soon brought to a Conclusion. This Amour had like to have ruined *Alicia's* Affairs, who at first was not alarm'd at the Discovery; but finding the Thing take a serious Turn, she resolv'd to employ her Art to bring him back again. She had a Relation, who was a handsome Fellow, and wanted nothing but a good Fortune to make him worthy *Ardelisa's* Notice.



tice. To Merit she was always blind ; but extremely sharp-sighted when Fortune was in View. To this young Gentleman then *Alicia* communicated her Design.

At a Masquerade, where he knew *Ardelisa* and *Frankville* were to be, he procured the same Dress as the latter ; and being much about the same Size and Make, had no great Difficulty in deceiving her. Warm'd with Wine, and the Gaieties of the Place, she propos'd a Turn with him to one of those Houses, ever open for the Reception of Lewdness. This was his Mark, and he gladly accepted the Invi-

Invitation. They pass'd two Hours without her being undeceiv'd, and the young Gentleman mixing in the Throng at their Return, *Frankville* saw her, and asking her where she had been all the Evening; "That, said she is a pleasant Question! Don't you know where I have been?" "Not I, upon my Soul (said he.)" She then began to suspect there was some Mistake in the Case, and turn'd off the Discourse.

She soon after perceiv'd the suppos'd *Frankville*, and tapping him on the Shoulder, "Pray (said she) tell me where you have been all this

" this Night ?" " Part of it here  
 " Madam (said he) and the rest  
 " in Heaven." " Well ! How do  
 " the Angels look (said she) laugh-  
 " ing ?" " Not Half so handsome  
 " as you Madam, (reph'd he brisk-  
 " ly :") " But where is this Hea-  
 " ven (says she ?) In your Arms  
 " Madam, where I could wish to  
 " be to Eternity." " Well ! But  
 " joking apart (said she) I don't  
 " know you". " I believe not (said  
 " he) I am oblig'd for the Felicity  
 " I have this Night enjoy'd to this  
 " Habit." " But pray who are  
 " you then (said she) let me know,  
 " but no Matter, be secret, and we  
 " may neither of us repent the  
 " Mistake."



" Mistake." He promis'd every Thing she could wish, and she gave him a Direction where to see her the next Day.

He punctually observ'd the Appointment; she did not dislike his Figure, and made him some Compliments on it. He pass'd the Evening with her, and took another Tour to Heaven.

This Commerce lasted longer than *Alicia* could have wish'd; for the young Gentleman, whose Vanity was fed by the Possession of so fine a Woman, was in no Haste to bring Matters to a Conclusion; and

and the Solicitations of his Friend had perhaps less Share, in his bringing Things to an Issue, than the real Character of *Ardenza*, which he was now perfectly acquainted with. He therefore resolv'd to serve his Friend, and took the following Method to put it in Practice.

He made it a Point to get into the good Graces of *Quinetta*, *Ardelisa's* Maid, who was a likely Wench, about four and five and twenty, and by praising her Beauty up to the Skies, and the rest of that silly Cant, which gains so much upon People in her Station,

he

he soon obtain'd whatever he could desire.

He had fix'd upon a likely Fellow for his Purpose, who was a private Man in the Guards; and having had Notice from *Quinetta*, that on such a Night *Frankville* was to be happy in the Possession of her Mistress, they introduc'd the Fellow; she was already in Bed, and fast asleep; the Soldier had his Directions, and went to Bed to her. Those who know how sharp set these Sort of Fellows generally are, will not be surpriz'd, that the Sight of a fine Woman, with the Magnificence of every Thing about

Q

him,



him, should give a fresh Edge to his Appetite, naturally keen enough; he took large Draughts of Love, and fell fast asleep. Soon after *Frankville* came in, and was going up Stairs; but *Quinetta*, who had her Cue, told him her Mistress was indispos'd, and desir'd to be excus'd to him for that Night. He told her he should but just wish her a good Night, and take his Leave. She begg'd he would not disturb her, and seem'd over officious to prevent his going up. This gave him some Suspicion, and he told her positively he would see her; her Business was not to make too much Resistance.

sistance. She suffer'd herself to be perswaded, and he went up.

The first Thing that offer'd itself to his View on entering her Chamber, was the Soldier's Cloaths lying on the Floor. He threw back the Curtains, and there he saw this happy Pair. She had one Arm thrown around his Neck, and her Mouth close to his, as if waiting for a Kiss, which was to be the Signal for a Repetition of those Joys they had already tasted. His Indignation was so great at her suppos'd Want of Delicacy, that he flung out of the Room without deigning to awake, and reproach her

for the Want of it. He went Home extremely chagrin'd, and resolv'd never to see her more.

*Alicia* was soon inform'd of all that had past, and waited with Impatience for the Event of it; she was not long in Suspence, for *Frankville* paid her a Visit that very Morning. She dissembled her Knowledge of every Thing that had past, and receiv'd him as usual. The Conversation was general for some Time; at length he artfully brought it round to Love. " My Lord (said she) I do not understand you, and you must not be surpriz'd if I tell you, that I can

" no



“ no longer receive your Visits, un-  
 “ less you tell me how I am to in-  
 “ terpret them.” — “ That Madam  
 “ (said he) is my present Purpose,  
 “ I come to offer you my Hand,  
 “ if it is worth your Acceptance.”  
 “ My Lord (said she) I have al-  
 “ ready told you, that upon those  
 “ Terms, I had no Objection.”  
 The Marriage Articles were soon  
 agreed on, and the Ceremony was  
 perform’d,

The Example of *Frankville*  
 had some Weight with *Lorenzo*,  
 who seriously applied to *Melintba*;  
 she would have given the Preference  
 to the Chevalier *d'Aigremont*; but  
 he

he (whether his Hour was not come, or whether he had a Dislike to Marriage) was not sufficiently pressing; she therefore clos'd with *Lorenzo's* Proposal, and they neither of them had ever Cause to repent of their Union.

*Ardelisa*, though she was a little disconcerted at the Discovery that *Frankville* had made, bore it up with a surprizing Spirit. Except on Account of Rank, she had no Reason to be displeased at the Exchange she had made, for she lik'd his Behaviour so well, that in a short Time, she presented him with a Pair of Colours. Soon after, she

procur'd

procur'd his further Advancement;  
and he soon commanded a Com-  
pany in that very Corps in which  
he had serv'd as a private Cen-  
tinel.

*Alicia*, whose Conduct had been  
irreproachable before Marriage, no  
sooner found the Fetters of Re-  
straint taken off by Matrimony,  
than she grew giddy, by the ex-  
alted Situation she found herself in.  
She began to coquet it with the  
Men, and grew insupportably vain  
with those of her own Sex. These,  
to be reveng'd, made it a Point to  
watch her Conduct narrowly, and  
soon found out that *Castillante* stood  
in



in a higher Degree of Favour with her, than was consistent with her own Honour, or the Obligation she lay under to *Frankville*.

As her Heart had never had much Share in this Union, she did not consider the Honour he had confer'd on her in the same Light with the Rest of the World. She could not help remembering, that *Frankville's* Intention was to have had her upon cheaper Terms ; and this, though she had never mentioned it to him, piqued her Pride, and was perhaps one of the Motives, that induc'd her to treat *Castillante* with less Severity.

This

This unguarded Behaviour of hers fed the uncharitable Town with Scandal, and they had already made her criminal, when but a few very pardonable Indiscretions gave Room for so heavy a Censure.

One Night, at a publick Garden, *Castillante*, as if by Accident, had placed himself on a Bench at the upper End of a dark Walk. *Alicia*, and a Friend of hers, had made Choice of that Place to unbosom their Secrets. “ Is it not cruel (said “ *Alicia*) that the busy World has “ already made me criminal with “ *Castillante* ! How have I deserv’d “ it ! What Liberties have I taken, “ but what I see daily practis’d “ by

“ by Women of establish'd Cha-  
 “ racter! My Husband too has  
 “ taken it in his Head that I am in  
 “ Love with the Man. I own I  
 “ think him a pretty Fellow, and  
 “ so, I believe, do most of the  
 “ Women; but does it follow that  
 “ I should forfeit my Honour?  
 “ No; (added she) whatever Airs  
 “ I may give myself, I am far from  
 “ denying that I owe much to  
 “ *Frankville*; he has placed me in  
 “ a Sphere of Life which I had not  
 “ much Reason to expect; but if  
 “ he should set too high a Value  
 “ upon the Obligation, I may be  
 “ tempted to take off from the  
 “ Merit of it; and should he pre-  
 “ tend



" tend to lord it over me, on Ac-  
 " count of the Disparity of our  
 " Births, and reproach me with  
 " Infidelity, I cannot say how far  
 " such a Provocation might work  
 " upon me." " Then, Madam,  
 " you shall have the Provocation,"  
 (said *Frankville*, starting from be-  
 hind a Tree) " I do reproach you ;  
 " I suspect you ; and have I not  
 " Room for Suspicion ? What  
 " means this Privacy ? Is not that  
 " your Minion yonder ? I have  
 " spoiled your Affignation, I see,  
 " and shall endeavour to prevent  
 " the Consequences of it." " For  
 " you, my Lord," said he, stepping  
 " up to *Castillante*) this is not a  
 " Place

" Place to shew my Resentment ;  
 " but you shall hear from me." *Ca-*  
*stillante's* being there was very slight  
 Ground for Suspicion ; but he had  
 heard his Wife's Discourse, and the  
 Devil Jealousy had taken Possession  
 of his Soul.

Next Morning he sent *Castillante*  
 a Challenge, which the other did  
 not fail to answer. When they met  
 at the Place appointed, " My Lord,  
 " (said *Castillante*) I am sorry that  
 " your Rashness should make you  
 " call me to this Place on such  
 " an Account ; but be assured you  
 " wrong both your Wife and me."  
 " That my Lord, reply'd *Frank-*  
 " ville,

“ ville, may, or may not be;  
 “ however, my Honour is hurt,  
 “ and I must have Satisfaction.” “ I  
 “ would not have you believe, re-  
 “ ply’d *Castillante*, that Fear has  
 “ any Share in what I am going to  
 “ say ; but I would have you con-  
 “ sider whether an Affair of this  
 “ Kind will not become the more  
 “ publick by our coming to such  
 “ Extremities.” “ No Matter, said  
 “ *Frankville*, I am determin’d.” “ If  
 “ so, my Lord, said *Castillante*, the  
 “ Fault is yours, and you must be  
 “ answerable for the Consequences.”

They fought, and, at the second  
 Thrust, *Frankville* was disabled in  
 the Sword-Arm. He would have

R

con-



continued the Fight, but *Castillante*, who saw him grow faint with the Loss of Blood, stood only upon the defensive; and when he fell, did not put him to the disagreeable Necessity of asking for his Life, but went to call a Surgeon.

He was carried Home, where he lay some Time ill of his Wound, and constantly refused to see his Wife; but at last, when he was pretty well recovered, she forced into his Chamber: "My Lord, said she, "you use me ill: Why am I denied the Liberty of attending "you?" "Your Conscience can "inform you, Madam," (said he sternly).

sternly). “ Mine, reply’d she, has  
 “ nothing to reproach me with;  
 “ you wrong me, basely wrong  
 “ me. Is it not enough that your  
 “ Imprudence has given the World  
 “ Room to talk, but you must still  
 “ feed the Mouth of Slander by  
 “ this Behaviour? ’Tis cruel and  
 “ ungenerous.” “ Well, Madam;  
 “ (said he, after a Pause) ’tis in  
 “ your Power to remove the Be-  
 “ haviour you complain of. Pro-  
 “ mise me — ; but ’tis too much,”  
 (added he with a Sigh.) — “ Yes, I  
 “ promise you, (said she, inter-  
 “ rupting him, never to see *Castil-*  
 “ *lante* any more.” This Promise  
 had the desir’d Effect; it restor’d

him to his Quiet, and he was shortly able to appear abroad.

She had promised, and sincerely intended to keep her Resolution; But how weak are a Woman's Resolves, who has not had Prudence enough to guard against the first Approaches of that dangerous Passion. She at first saw *Castillante* with Pleasure, but knew not as yet that Love had any Share in it. But the Resolution she had taken lately of never seeing him more, soon inform'd her of her dangerous Situation.

*Cas-*



*Castillante*, who was really a Man of Honour, tho' he loved *Alicia*, no sooner heard of the Promise she had made, than he resolv'd to lend her all the Assistance in his Power. He avoided every Place where he thought he might see her; and when he did, which was but seldom, behav'd with that distant Respect as made her think that he either never had, or, if he had, it was at most but a slight Affection, which her seeming Indifference had entirely cured him of.

Satisfy'd with having gain'd this Conquest over her growing Love,

which perhaps was more owing to his Behaviour than to her own Prudence, she not only seem'd, but was, in Reality, upon very good Terms with her Husband, when an unexpected Event put an End to their Tranquility. *Ardelisa* had not forgot the Trick that had been play'd her, and soon discover'd that *Alicia* was at the Bottom of it. She resolv'd upon taking a cruel Revenge, which she put in Execution in the following Manner.

*Castillante*, who was far from cur'd of his Passion for *Alicia*, had retir'd to a Country-seat he had not far from Town, there to indulge his  
Melan-

Melancholy. One Morning, as he was musing by the River-side, a Person accosted him who had the Appearance of having been once a Woman of Condition. " My " Business with your Lordship, said " she, requires no Apology ; this " will explain it ;" putting a Letter into his Hands, which contain'd the following Words.

My LORD,

*MY Husband is far from being cur'd of his Folly ; and to put it out of my Power to injure him, has resolv'd to carry me out of the Kingdom. I cannot refuse myself the Pleasure of a last Farewel. I shall*



*shall be To-morrow at —, on a Visit to my Sister. I am fond of fishing, and, by the River-side, shall gladly see you once more.*

He made no doubt of its coming from *Alicia*, and therefore dismiss'd the Woman, without asking her any Questions, and took care to be at the Rendezvous. He had not been there above an Hour, when he saw *Alicia* coming down to the Water-side, attended only by her Maid. Upon her perceiving him, she would have gone back, but he prevented her. "What means this, my Lord!" " (said she) I am astonished—" " At what, Madam! (said he.) I should

“ should not have presum’d——”

“ Why do you then ? (said she.)”

“ I had your Leave, Madam, (said

“ he.)” “ My Leave ! What do you

“ mean ? my Lord.” “ Are you then

“ ignorant of the Contents of this ?”

He then gave her the Letter, which

she read with Attention. “ I am, in-

“ deed ; (said she) this is a Trick.”

“ What ! Madam, (said he, with

“ some Emotion) do you repent ?”

“ Repent what ?” said she, “ Your

“ kind Invitation, Madam.” “ I

“ know of none, (said she) you are

“ deceived ; and I——perhaps am

“ ruined. I see my Husband com-

“ ing down ; for Heaven’s Sake re-

“ tire.”

He

He got away thro' the Bushes that are on the Borders of the River; and *Alicia*, tho' she thought he was unperceiv'd by *Frankville*, could not hide the Confusion this Affair had thrown her into. *Frankville* perceiv'd it, and with an Air of Indifference that seem'd to have some Meaning in it, ask'd her what was the Matter with her. She told him she was not well. "Then," (said he) you had better go Home, "and try to compose yourself." She took this Advice, and in her Return to Lady —, could not help ruminating on what had happened. She wonder'd what strange  
Ac-



Accident could have brought *Castillante* to this unfrequented Place. The Letter then occur'd to her, which perplex'd her still the more. She knew *Castillante* was incapable of such a Forgery, nor would it have answer'd any Purpose, as he might have contriv'd a thousand Ways to see her, without having Recourse to such Baseness; and she could not suspect her Husband guilty of such Meanness, to draw her into a Snare.

She was scarcely got Home when *Frankville* came in, who immediately order'd the Coach to be got ready, and tho' it was late, drove  
away

away to Town. As they went along, "Madam, (said he) I have  
 "received Letters from my Stew-  
 "ard that require my Presence  
 "down in —; you must there-  
 "fore be ready, for I intend to set  
 "out pretty early in the Morning."  
 There seem'd to be some Mystery in  
 this, for she knew he had receiv'd  
 no Letters while they were at —;  
 and had he received any before, he  
 would not have failed to have com-  
 municated the Contents sooner.  
 However, she dissembled her Sus-  
 picions, and next Morning they set  
 out. They got that Night very late  
 to *Dover*. She had never been down  
 in —, and being little acquainted  
 with

with travelling, she never imagin'd they had been all Day going a quite contrary Road. Whilst they were at Supper a Seafaring Man came in. " My Lord, (says he) the Tide " serves about Twelve To-night, " and we shall be ready to sail: Or " would your Lordship wait till " Morning?" " No, (said *Frank-* " *ville*) I'll sail directly." As soon as the Man was gone out; " Good " God! my Lord, (said *Alicia*) " what's the Meaning of all this? " and where is your Lordship going " to convey me?" " To *France*, " Madam, (said he) where your " Minion shall not have daily Op- " portunities of seeing you. I shall

S

" put



“ put it out of his Power and yours,  
 “ at least for some Time, to do me  
 “ the Favour you intended.” “ This  
 “ is an Insult, my Lord, (said she)  
 “ that few Women can bear, and  
 “ I hope as few deserve. If your  
 “ Honour is not worth preserving,  
 “ mine is; and I would have you  
 “ know—” “ No Threats, Ma-  
 “ dam, (said he hastily) keep your  
 “ Temper, I am determin’d”—  
 “ My Lord, (said she) if Disobe-  
 “ dience did not give a fresh Han-  
 “ dle to your unjust Suspicions, I  
 “ positively would not go.” “ You  
 “ may do as you please, Madam,”  
 (said he, coolly.)

Just

Just at this Time, a Sailor came in, who inform'd them the Ship was under Sail. They prepar'd for their Departure with very different Tempers; he, with the ill-natur'd Satisfaction of giving her Pain, and she with the Mortification of being treated like a guilty Person. About Five in the Morning they landed at *Calais*, and set out immediately for *Paris*.

*Castillante*, who had waited some Days with Impatience, in order to have the Myſtery clear'd up, upon receiving no Tidings of *Alicia*, began to grow uneasy; he ſent his Spies abroad, who inform'd

him, that two or three Days before, she was set out with *Frankville* for ———. He form'd a Resolution of going down, not doubting but some Opportunity would present itself for coming to the Speech of her. He set out the next Day, attended only by one Servant. He revolv'd in his Mind what had pass'd by the River Side, and could not Account for the Surprize she express'd, when he shew'd her the Letter ; on the other Hand, he saw none of that Severity in her Countenance upon that Occasion, which an offended Woman would have shewn ; he therefore resolv'd to pursue his Scheme. At his Arrival at ———, he  
sent



ent his Servant to gain what Information he could; who brought him Word, that the Steward was come down that Morning, and that his Lord and Lady were gone abroad, but he knew not where. *Cassillante* return'd to Town extremely chagrin'd at his Disappointment; but more so, at the Difficulty he found in discovering the Place of their Retreat. Full of these Inquietudes, he arriv'd in Town, made further Enquiry, but all to no Purpose. He grew melancholly, and his Health was visibly impair'd; insomuch, that his Physicians advis'd him to a Change of Air. He resolv'd to go to the South of *France*,

more from the Hopes of dispelling his Melancholly, by a Variety of new Objects, than from any Expectation of intirely removing his Disorder. He set out, and in a few Days arriv'd at *Paris*. One Evening as he was walking in the Garden of the *Thuilleries*, a Woman well drest accosted him ; “ My  
 “ Lord, (said she, in very good  
 “ *English*) please to peruse this Letter ;” which having hastily open'd, he read as follows.

*I Know every Step you have taken,  
 Perseverance like yours deserves  
 Success ; follow the Bearer, and it  
 shall not be my Fault, if you have  
 any*

*any longer Reason to complain of your  
ill Fortune.*

He ask'd the Woman several Questions relating to the Person who had sent her; she told him she knew no more of the Lady, than that she was lately come from *England*; had a Husband, was a fine Woman, and made a very grand Appearance. This call'd to his Mind a little Circumstance that had happen'd at *Dover*; for as he was at Supper, he overhear'd the Chambermaid ask her Mistress what Chamber the Gentleman was to lie in "Why that (said the Mistress) " in which the handsome young " Lady,



" Lady, and her Husband, lay the  
 " other Night. " O ! the ill natur'd  
 " Cur, (said the Chambermaid)  
 " he was carrying her abroad a-  
 " gainst her Will ; I could have  
 " found in my Heart to have tore  
 " his Eyes out ; she is a charming  
 " Creature, and I suppose he is  
 " jealous of her." This, at the  
 Time it was spoke, made very little  
 Impression on him ; but now, put-  
 ting Circumstances together, he  
 made no Doubt but *Alicia* was in  
*Paris*, and that the Letter came  
 from her ; he therefore follow'd the  
 Woman, who led him through  
 many bye Places, till she brought  
 him to a superb Hotel in the *Faux-*  
*bourg*

*bourg St. Germain.* She introduced him into a magnificent Apartment, lighted only by one small Taper. The Lady was reposing herself on a rich Bed with the Curtains half drawn; so that it was not an easy Matter to distinguish her Face.

“ Well, my dear *Alicia* (said *Castil-*  
 “ *lante*, kneeling down by the Bed-  
 “ side) has Fortune at length  
 “ brought me to the Moment of my  
 “ wish’d for Happiness; I shall not  
 “ enquire By what Means I am to  
 “ be thus happy, or what gives me  
 “ this favourable Opportunity; but  
 “ shall seize it with Transport and  
 “ Gratitude.” So saying, he snatch’d  
 her Hand, and kissing it eagerly,  
 was

was proceeding to greater Liberties. " Hold, my Lord (said the  
 " Lady) I would not owe my Hap-  
 " piness entirely to Fraud ; 'tis not  
 " *Alicia* you are so profuse of your  
 " Love to, but one who loves you  
 " with a more violent and disinte-  
 " rested Passion than she can do.  
 " 'Tis *Angelica*, who knowing  
 " your Love for *Alicia*, has made  
 " use of this innocent Stratagem to  
 " deceive you. If I have not  
 " Charms sufficient to engage you,  
 " I am sufficiently punish'd for my  
 " Attempt. I see by the Surprise  
 " you are in (added she) that you  
 " are far from being pleas'd at the  
 " Deceit ; but though I cannot pre-  
 " tend



“tend to equal Beauty with *Alicia*,  
 “I am not despiseable.” You  
 “are young and amorous, and  
 “Constancy is not a Virtue to be  
 “expected at your Time of Life.”

Here, for the Honour of *Castillante*,  
 we close the Scene. Next Morning  
 brought on such Reflections, as  
 were extremely disagreeable to him.  
 He reproach'd himself for his Want  
 of Delicacy, especially after *Ange-*  
*lica* had acquainted him of *Frank-*  
*ville* and *Alicia* being in *Paris*.

This Adventure, far from cu-  
 ring him of his Love for *Alicia*,  
 had quite a contrary Effect. He  
 began to make Comparisons, infi-  
 nitely

nitely to the Disadvantage of *Angelica*; and had at least this to excuse his Folly, that he repeated it no more.

Though he had form'd no Designs against *Alicia's* Virtue, the Pleasure of seeing her was to him sufficient Reward for any Expence or Trouble he should be at for that Purpose; and as he judg'd a Woman of her Rank could not long be conceal'd, even in *Paris*, he went one Night to the *Italian* Opera, supposing that a likely Place to see her. He waited some Time with Impatience, and was preparing to go home again, when  
he

he saw her led in by the Prince of C——, a young Nobleman of the Blood-Royal of *France*, famous for his Irregularities. This alarm'd him, but he immediately compos'd himself upon seeing *Frankville* enter; he observ'd all her Actions, with a particular Attention, and could find nothing in her Behaviour to give him Uneasiness. On the contrary, she receiv'd the Prince's Civilities with a Coldness, that gave him Reason to be satisfied on that Side. At the breaking up of the Opera, he followed the Coach, which set them down at *Frankville's* Hotel; but the Difficulty of getting to the Speech of

T

*Alicia*



*Alicia* was not easy to be surmounted, without his being seen by *Frankville*; but Chance soon threw an Opportunity in his Way. He was one Day at one of those Shops where they sell Laces, when a Servant came in and desired the Woman of the Shop to carry some to Lady —, giving *Alicia* her Title. This was in his Favour, he soon found the Way to make the Shopkeeper his Friend; who promis'd to convey a Letter to the *English* Beauty (so she call'd her.) She was as good as her Word, and next Day brought him an Answer, which contained but these few Words.

TO

**T**O follow the Dictates of my Heart, were to see you as you desire ; but there is Danger in the Experiment. Honour and Duty both forbid it ; therefore, for your own Peace and mine, think of it no more.

This Letter was too obliging for him to take the Advice she had given him in it, of thinking of it no more. He had, as has been observ'd, made the Lace-Woman his Friend, and she promis'd (to do every Thing in her Power to serve him. Servants in *France* are open to the Power of Money, as well as

in *England*. One of these, whom the Woman was commission'd to spare no Cost in gaining over to her Interest, soon inform'd her, that on such a Day *Alicia* intend-  
 ed to visit the Gardens of *Versailles*. On the Day appointed, they set out; and in admiring the Curiosities of that delightful Spot, *Alicia* stray'd from her Company; and having got into a long Walk at a Distance from them, she was accosted by a Gardiner. “ Your  
 “ Commands Madam (said he to  
 “ her) are too rigorous to be obey'd;  
 “ I cannot bear to be depriv'd of  
 “ the Pleasure of seeing you, my  
 “ own Danger I despise, and would  
 “ not



“ not for my Soul draw *Alicia* in-  
“ to any.” The Word *Alicia*, so  
familiarily pronounc’d by this Ruf-  
tick, alarm’d her, and she was go-  
ing to cry out. “ Hold Madam,  
“ (said he) am I so lost to your  
“ Remembrance, that this Disguise  
“ can hide *Castillante*? My ever  
“ lovely *Alicia*! banish your  
“ Fears; whatever may be my  
“ Fate, I shall offer nothing, that  
“ even you should wish un-offer’d.”  
This Speech recover’d her from the  
Surprize the seeing him in this  
Place, and in such a Dress, had  
thrown her into. “ Follow me  
“ my Lord (said she) I have some-  
“ thing to say to you.” Being come

to a retir'd Part of the Garden,

" My Lord (said she) *Frankville*

" I find is not so much to blame

" in his Behaviour towards me ;

" Appearances were against me,

" this Letter from my Sister will

" explain the Affair. He look'd it

over, and found it contained these

Words.

My DEAR,

*YOU* were betray'd, your Maid,  
whom you left behind on Ac-  
count of Sickness, in the last Stages  
of it, confess'd to my Lord's Gentle-  
man, whom she was to have been  
married to, that she was brib'd by  
*Ardelisa* to betray your Secrets.

*It*

*It was that subtle Woman who forg'd the Letter to Castillante, which brought him to the River Side; your Woman was directed to acquaint your Husband with the suppos'd Appointment; he saw Castillante, and that was the Cause of your sudden Departure. I need not caution you to be careful of your Conduct, your own Sense of Honour will direct you.*

“ Good God! (cried he) after  
 “ reading the Letter, to what a  
 “ Degree can this Woman’s Ma-  
 “ lice carry her !”



" I do not know (reply'd *Al-*  
 " *cia*;) but she has not yet done,  
 " for my Husband has some Sus-  
 " picion of your being in *France*;  
 " and to avoid you, I suppose, in-  
 " tends to set out in a few Days  
 " for some other Place." The  
 Company coming towards them,  
 he walk'd off across the Garden un-  
 suspected, upon her Promise that  
 she would see him once again be-  
 fore they went.

*Frankville* had receiv'd certain  
 Information from his Friends in  
*England*, that *Castillante* was gone  
 to *France*; this made him resolve

to

to leave *Paris*; he therefore told *Alicia*, who he doubted not had found Means to see her Lover, that as he enjoy'd but an indifferent State of Health, he had resolv'd to take a Tour to *Montpelier*, to see whether the Air of that Place would occasion any Change. *Alicia* was extremely pleas'd that he had put such Confidence in her, and was preparing for her Journey; when she receiv'd a Visit from the Lace-woman, who told her, that she had a great Variety of rich Goods just come in, of which she thought it her Duty to give her Ladyship Notice, that she might have the first Choice. *Alicia* seem'd indifferent,

ferent, but at last the Woman being so pressing, she promis'd to go. Here it was, that *Castillante*, waited for the Opportunity she had promis'd, of seeing him again. The good Lady of the House, who understood her Business perfectly well, no sooner saw *Alicia* come in, than she told her, she must go up Stairs for her Laces ; she was afraid of keeping them in the Shop, lest her Ladyship should not have the first Sight of them. *Castillante* made the best Use imaginable of this Opportunity, said all that a tender Passion could inspire, vow'd eternal Constancy, and promis'd to remain single all the Days of his Life,



Life, unless Fortune gave him an  
 Opportunity of giving his Hand,  
 where he had already bestow'd his  
 " Heart. My Lord (said she, sigh-  
 " ing) this may be the last Time of  
 " my seeing you; I am now going  
 " to make a Declaration, which  
 " perhaps may not be consistent  
 " with the strict Rules of Honour.  
 " Know then that I esteem you,  
 " perhaps——," here she paus'd.  
 " Let not this Confession lessen  
 " me in your Opinion; for when I  
 " have made it, I am to tell you, that  
 " whatever Regard I may have  
 " for you, I know what I owe my-  
 " self. Had it been my Fate,—but  
 " 'tis now too late, I own I might  
 " have

" have been more happy ; but shall  
 " never, at the Expence of what I  
 " hold most dear, purchase what I  
 " wish had fallen to my Lot.  
 " *Frankville*, though unkind, is still  
 " my Husband, — I cannot, I do  
 " not desire your Love ; but shall  
 " be proud of your Esteem ; and  
 " be assur'd my Conduct never shall  
 " forfeit my Pretensions to that  
 " Title. Yet perhaps (added she)  
 " I have gone farther than I ought."  
 " No my ever dear *Alicia* (said  
 " he, interrupting her) the only  
 " Advantage I shall take of this  
 " generous Confession, will be to  
 " esteem your Virtue as I did your  
 " Person before ; the Bar between  
 " me

“ me and my Hopes may perhaps  
 “ be remov’d.” “ I must not hear  
 “ that, my Lord,” (said she, a lit-  
 “ tle mov’d.) “ You shall hear no-  
 “ thing (said he, tenderly) that  
 “ can disturb your Peace, permit  
 “ me only —,” the Woman com-  
 ing down, prevented his saying  
 any Thing more to her at that  
 Time, and she had only Time to  
 say, “ See me here To-morrow.”  
 She tumbled about the Laces, and  
 looking on her Watch, told the  
 Shopkeeper she had overstay’d  
 her Time, but would come again  
 the next Day.

U

She



She was as good as her Word,  
 and *Castillante* did not fail being  
 there at the Time appointed. The  
 good Gentlewoman, for the same  
 Reason as has been given before,  
 had mov'd her Laces up Stairs.  
 " My Lord (said *Alicia*) I have  
 " only Time to tell you, that we  
 " shall set out the Day after To-  
 " morrow, my Husband tells me  
 " to *Montpelier* ; but I have re-  
 " ceiv'd private Information, that  
 " he intends to carry me into *Italy*.  
 " I would not have you build any  
 " Hopes upon this Confidence that  
 " I place in you. My Intent in let-  
 " ting you into the Knowledge of  
 " it

“ this is, that should you incline  
 “ to leave *France*, you may not  
 “ think of taking that Rout ; for  
 “ the Plea of Hazard bringing you  
 “ to the Place where I shall happen  
 “ to be, would be far from remo-  
 “ ving my Husband’s Suspicions ;  
 “ and the Satisfaction I should have  
 “ at seeing you again would be much  
 “ over-balanc’d, by the Inquietude  
 “ it must give *Frankville* ; there-  
 “ fore I conjure you, think no  
 “ more of me, at least for the  
 “ present.” She bought some Tri-  
 fles of the Woman, and casting a  
 tender Look at *Castillante*, took her  
 Leave. He went Home, and spent  
 two or three Days in the greatest

Agonies ; the Injunction ſhe had laid him under of not following her, and the Impoſſibility of obeying her, caus'd a ſtrong Conflict in his Soul ; he could not think of diſobeying her Commands, nor of following her Advice in taking another Rout ; he heard of their Departure, however, without having come to any Reſolution. But no ſooner were they gone, but he gave himſelf up to Deſpair, and continued ſome Days in a State much to be pitied ; at laſt he reſolv'd to return to *England*. He ſet out accordingly, and had reach'd but the firſt Stage, when he chang'd his Mind.

“ I may, however, (ſaid he), be  
 “ allow'd



"allow'd the Satisfaction of fol-  
 "lowing at a Distance ; at least  
 "it will be some Consolation to  
 "me, to think that I am near my  
 "Soul's Treasure. I will follow  
 "her." He had no sooner taken this  
 Resolution, than he put it in Prac-  
 tice ; he took the Road of *Mont-*  
*pelier*, and arriv'd there without  
 any Interruption. When he ar-  
 riv'd in that City, he took all the  
 Precautions imaginable to prevent  
 his being seen, supposing a Possibi-  
 lity of *Frankville's* being there ; he  
 made all the Enquiries he could,  
 but receiv'd little Satisfaction, and  
 when he found there was little Like-  
 lihood of their being there, he ap-

pear'd more publickly, and visited  
 the publick Walks and Coffee-  
 houses. Being at one of the latter  
 one Morning, he overheard a Gen-  
 tleman telling his Friend with an  
 Oath, that she was a charming  
 Creature; but, added, he, I think  
 all the Women of that Country are  
 so. This awak'd *Castillante's* Cu-  
 riosity, and he listen'd to their  
 Discourse, without seeming to un-  
 derstand it. " They must be Peo-  
 ple of Distinction (said he) who  
 " had not yet spoke; for besides  
 " their Equipage, there is some-  
 " thing in the Woman's Mien, that  
 " bespeaks her such." " I'd lay  
 " my Life (said the other) the  
 " Hus-

“ Husband is jealous of her, for  
 “ he appear’d extremely discon-  
 “ tended.” “ But (added he) the  
 “ *English* do not easily imbibe  
 “ Notions of Jealousy. After  
 “ all (said he) what we take to be  
 “ the Effect of that sordid Pas-  
 “ sion, may be no more than the  
 “ Consequence of that phlegmatick  
 “ Temper, for which their Nation  
 “ is so remarkable.” “ What, said  
 “ the other, they go through *Lyons*,  
 “ after having made some Stay at  
 “ *Paris*. I suppose they are go-  
 “ ing to make the Tour of *Italy*.”  
 The Conversation then became ge-  
 neral, and *Castillante* took his  
 Leave.

Satisfy’d



Satisfy'd that he was upon the right Scent, he set forward for *Lyons*, and had Tidings of them at every Town thro' which he pass'd; but when he got to that City he was bewilder'd. *Lyons* is another *Paris*. Here his Enquiry proved fruitless; for either they had made no Stay, or had taken another Route. He curs'd his ill Fortune, but he might as well have check'd the Winds for blowing.

He staid two or three Days, expecting they might yet arrive; but he might have staid till now, for they had gone directly to *Marseilles*, and em-

embark'd for *Genoa*. He crossed the *Alps*, and soon found himself in the Garden of the World: But not all the enchanting Scenes he daily met, could dissipate the Melancholly that hung upon him. He arrived at *Rome*, and had been there above a Month, without hearing any Tidings of his beloved *Alicia*. One Night, as he was going Home very thoughtful, he heard a Groan from the opposite Side of the Way. He went up to the Place, and found a Man almost expiring. Whilst he was considering how to relieve the distressed Person, the City Guard came up; and, notwithstanding all he could urge in Support of his

In-

Innocence, they carried him before a Magistrate; and as Circumstances appeared very strong against him, he was committed to Jail. The Noise of this Murder was soon spread about the City, and several People went out of Curiosity, to see the supposed Murderer. Among the rest, happened to be a Gentleman who had stopt at an Inn not far from *Lyons*, who deposed, that he had seen the Prisoner make Enquiry at that Inn, after the Gentleman, and a Lady that was with him; and being informed that they had been there the Day before, he had set out immediately in Pursuit of them. This he back'd with such

Cir--



Circumstances, as seemed to fix the Guilt upon *Castillante*; so that the Magistrate made no Doubt of his being the Man who had perpetrated the horrid Deed.

The Person who had been wounded was carried to a Surgeon's, and there taken all imaginable Care of. He had received three desperate Wounds, but, by the Care of the Surgeon, he seem'd in a short Time to be out of Danger. As soon as he was able to walk, he was desir'd by the Magistrate to go to the Prison, and see if he could swear to the Person. On entering this dismal Place, and examining the Prisoner,

soner, he cried out, " Good God!  
 " *Castillante*, is it you?" " I am  
 " indeed *Castillante*; but who are  
 " you, that seem to know me?"  
 " I am your Friend *Bonvolus*, (said  
 " he) and sorry to see you here  
 " for a Crime which I know your  
 " Soul abhors." Then turning to  
 the People who attended, " This  
 " is not the Man, (said he) this is  
 " my Friend, an *English* Noble-  
 " man, of Worth and Fortune. I  
 " shall soon (said he, turning to  
 " *Castillante*) set you free from this  
 " Place of Horror:" And taking  
 his Leave, waited on the Magi-  
 strate, and told him he had no Sus-  
 picion of the Gentleman who was  
 im-

imprisoned on his Account; that he was his Friend, and incapable of such an Action; that he had been attack'd by four Fellows, who had rifled as well as wounded him; and that the Gentleman whom he had committed was under no Temptation of robbing any Body, being Master of a plentiful Fortune.

He had scarce finished this Account when a Priest entered the Room: "I am come, Sir," said he, addressing himself to the Judge, "to inform you of some Particulars relating to the Gentleman that was lately wounded; The Fact was committed by the Captain of



“ the *Genoese* Ship. that brought the  
 “ Gentleman over from *Marseilles*,  
 “ who had hired three Bravoes to  
 “ assist him in murdering the Gen-  
 “ tleman.” “ How came you by  
 “ this Knowledge ? ” ( said the  
 Judge.) “ Sir, ( said the Priest )  
 “ I have it from the Captain’s own  
 “ Mouth : The Gentleman defended  
 “ himself, and, in his Defence,  
 “ gave this Villain such a Wound,  
 “ that I believe he is by this Time  
 “ past the Reach of Justice.” “ What  
 “ Motive could induce him to the  
 “ Commission of such a Crime ? ”  
 said the Judge. “ This Letter, ( re-  
 “ ply’d the Priest ) may probably  
 “ explain it : ” And giving the Judge  
 a Letter,

a Letter, it was read, and contain'd  
these Words: A first salutation of  
my Love, I am far from thinking  
CAPTAIN,

**I** AM not insensible of your Me-  
rit; your Behaviour has not  
escaped my Notice. Hope every  
Thing from Time; at present my  
Husband is a Bar\_\_\_\_\_.

Bonvolus desired to see it, and  
looking over it with Attention, knew  
the Character to be Angelica's.  
“ Now, (said he) the Mystery is  
“ explain'd; this vain coquettish  
“ Woman, pleas'd with the Ho-  
“ mage this Fellow seem'd to pay  
“ her, has encouraged him, by her  
X 2 “ doubt-

“ doubtful Manner of writing to  
 “ him, to make this Attempt upon  
 “ my Life. I am far from thinking  
 “ (added he) that she imagined he  
 “ would have interpreted her Letter  
 “ in such a Manner, as to have  
 “ made an Attempt on my Life.”  
 He was right in this Conjecture, for  
 the Letter she had wrote was more  
 owing to her Levity, and the Pride  
 she took in a Train of Admirers,  
 than from any Intention she had of  
 gratifying the Fellow’s Desires; yet  
 she no sooner heard of the supposed  
 Death of *Bonvolus*, than she thought  
 proper to secure herself by Flight.  
 She returned to *England*, where  
 finding herself despised by all the  
 World,



World, Grief soon put an End to her Life.

The Magistrate, attended by *Bonvolus* and the Priest, went to the Prison, and released *Castillante*, who could not yet understand by what Means those Things were brought about. By the Description he had had at different Places, he made no Doubt but the Information he had received related to *Frankville* and *Alicia*; but upon Recollection, all that he had been told might as well relate to *Angelica* as to *Alicia*, as there was some Similitude in their Air. But when he was told by *Bonvolus* that he had been with *Angelica* at all those

Places he had mentioned, the Mystery soon vanished, and he was satisfied that *Frankville* and *Alicia* could not have been at any of them; for *Frankville* suspecting that *Castillante* would follow them to the Place where he had given out he was going, had set out for *England*; where he hop'd, at least for some Time, to get clear of the hateful Presence of *Castillante*.

As soon as *Castillante* had got his Liberty, he went to the Place where the Priest had told him the Captain lay; but the Wretch had, to prevent the Punishment that awaited him, tore off the Bandages that

that had been applied to his Wounds,  
and died in the greatest Agonies.

*Bonvolus* was now perfectly recovered from his Wounds, and *Castillante* from the Fatigue of his Imprisonment; and they both determin'd soon to set out for *England*.

One Morning that *Castillante* waited upon his Friend, he found him reading some Packets he had just received from Home. "Well,"  
" (said he) what News from *England*?"  
" Why, (said he) *Ardelisa* has pleased her Fancy at last."  
" Has not she done so all her  
" Life?"



“ Life?” (reply’d *Castillante*) “ But

“ I mean, (says *Bonvolus*) that

“ the Death of *Lenox* has made her

“ free, and she has married Col.

“ C—.” That the Reader may

know who Col. C— was, he may

remember the private Centinel who

was found in Bed with *Ardelisa*,

whom she, by her Liberalities, had

enabled to make different Purchases

in the Army; and he, by his Me-

rit, obtain’d the rest. To him then

it was that she was now married,

and tho’ it was on her Side a Match

of Inclination, yet it did not put a

Stop to her Irregularities.

“ What

"What more News?" said *Castillante*. "Why, that the finest  
 Woman in *England* is now a  
 "Widow." "Who is that?" said  
*Castillante* eagerly. "I thought  
 "all the World had been agreed  
 "about that, (said *Bonvolus*, smiling)  
 "'tis *Alicia*." "Alicia!" (said  
*Castillante*) Oh, my Friend, do  
 "not trifle." "Trifle! (said *Bon-*  
*volus*) prithee read the Letter,  
 "*Frankville* died of an Apo-  
 "plexy.— You seem mov'd! What's  
 "the Matter?" "I am *Italy*  
 "farewell. Now (said he) *Bonvo-*  
*lus*, we'll set out To-morrow  
 "Morning, if you please." "To-  
 "morrow

"morrow Morning! First let me  
 "know, my Friend, why such  
 "Haste!" "The Tale is long, (said  
 "Castillante) let it be the Subject of  
 "our Travelling-Hours." "With  
 "all my Heart, (reply'd Bonvolus)  
 "I am ready to attend you." He

They waited but a short Time,  
 for some Remittances which they  
 expected from England, and set for-  
 ward. Castillante made a Confident  
 of his Friend, in Regard to his At-  
 tachment to Alicia, so far as re-  
 lated to himself, but suppressed every  
 Circumstance that might throw a  
 Reflection on her Conduct. "My  
 "Friend (said Bonvolus) she is a  
 Woman;



“ Woman; as such, you’ll find her  
 “ frail: The Death of *Frankville*  
 “ must have enlarg’d her Views,  
 “ and if she, when plain Miss  
 “ ———, refus’d some Offers which  
 “ the World thought she might be  
 “ proud of, depend on it, she will be  
 “ difficult in her Choice now. You  
 “ have Merit enough to entitle you  
 “ to the Regard of any Woman;  
 “ but will this gay, fluttering  
 “ Thing, find Merit alone sufficient  
 “ to gratify her Pride! No, No;  
 “ think no more of her. She is  
 “ beautiful, knows it, and, no  
 “ Doubt, will set a Price upon her-  
 “ self; and, depend upon it, the  
 “ Countess of ——— will find many  
 “ more

"more Admirers than Miss ~~W~~  
 "did." "All your Argument (re-  
 "ply'd *Castillante*) is founded on a  
 "Mistake; she is not the Woman  
 "you take her for b' a sudden Rise  
 "to Fortune and Title might indeed  
 "have occasioned some Alteration  
 "in her Behaviour, some little Acts  
 "of Indiscretion may have been  
 "the Consequence of her sudden  
 "Change of Fortune; but Reflec-  
 "tion has made her quite another  
 "Thing. In short, she is to me  
 "the most agreeable, the most  
 "charming of her Sex; and, as the  
 "Poet has it,  
 "I view her with a Lover's Eye;  
 "She has no Fault, or I no Fault can spy.  
 "There-

"Therefore, my dear *Bonvolus*,  
 "if you value my Friendship, both  
 "my Folly, if you must call it so;  
 "and let me hear no more of her  
 "Faults." "Well then (said *Bon-*  
 "*volus*, she is all Perfection: But  
 "should this Angel, see some hand-  
 "some Mortal, with a fine For-  
 "tune, what should hinder her  
 "from making herself happy be-  
 "fore your Return? For I do not  
 "find that she has any Knowledge  
 "of your Pretensions." "How strangely Things  
 "I have not told you so, (said  
 "*Castillante*) my Behaviour has suf-  
 "ficiently inform'd her." "Fiddle-



“ faddle, (said *Bonvolus*) your Be-  
 “ haviour ! If she interprets Com-  
 “ plaisance and Civility into Love,  
 “ then I suppose she imagines every  
 “ Man in *England* must be her  
 “ Lover. Her Beauty claims Admi-  
 “ ration, and that cannot fail of  
 “ being attended with Marks of  
 “ Complaisance, which a Woman  
 “ will always put the most favour-  
 “ able Construction on.”

They were just come to the Edge  
 of a Wood thro’ which they were  
 to pass. “ How strangely Things  
 “ come round ! (said *Bonvolus*) You  
 “ may remember I left *England* sud-  
 “ dely, and without taking Leave  
 “ of

“ of any of my Friends; *Angelica*  
 “ had disappeared a little before, and  
 “ I was a good deal piqu’d, when I  
 “ was inform’d she was gone off  
 “ with *Camillo*, and resolv’d to go  
 “ in quest of them. My Pride had  
 “ more Share in this Resolution  
 “ than my Love; for I had flat-  
 “ ter’d myself I stood high in her  
 “ Favour, and could not bear to  
 “ see her carried off by such a Ri-  
 “ val as *Camillo*. I set out, attended  
 “ by a Couple of Servants, and in  
 “ riding through this Wood, I heard  
 “ a dismal Groan. Riding up to  
 “ the Place, I found a Man ex-  
 “ tended on the Ground, having  
 “ received several dangerous Wounds.

“I ask’d him in *French*, how he,  
“came to be in that Condition;  
“and he answer’d me in *English*,  
“that he had been set upon by  
“Robbers; but (said he) they  
“have carried off a Lady, whom  
“I accompanied, with an Intent I  
“suppose to force her. A Coun-  
“tryman coming up, inform’d us,  
“he had seen the Fellows carry  
“off the Lady, and he suppos’d  
“they were in such a Part of the  
“the Wood.

“I left one Servant to take care of  
“the Man, and went with the o-  
“ther and the Countryman in  
“pursuit of the Lady, whom we  
“found



“ found in a very remote Place,  
 “ tied to a Tree, with the Fellows  
 “ fighting by her Side ; but as soon  
 “ as they saw us, they made off  
 “ through the Wood. I went to  
 “ untie the Lady, and you may  
 “ think I was not a little surpriz’d,  
 “ when I saw my fair Fugitive.  
 “ It was *Angelica* herself, who in-  
 “ form’d me, that the Cause of  
 “ their Quarrel was, who should  
 “ have her first. She then told me,  
 “ that the Gentleman I had re-  
 “ liev’d was *Camillo* ; begg’d Par-  
 “ don for her Infidelity to me, and  
 “ desir’d to go back to the Place  
 “ where we had left the unfortu-  
 “ nate Man. We found he had

"been convey'd to a neigh-  
 "bouring Village, and had been  
 "visited by a Surgeon, who as-  
 "sur'd us, there was no Danger of  
 "his Life. I then knew my  
 "old Friend, and resolv'd to  
 "wait at the Village, till he was  
 "perfectly cur'd, and think myself  
 "highly blameable for not doing  
 "so; but a Woman can break the  
 "strongest Links of Friendship.  
 "— Would you believe it, this  
 "Woman, who, in a Fit of Fond-  
 "ness, had propos'd this Tour to  
 "Camillo, had not Patience to  
 "wait a Week without a new En-  
 "gagement. Come (said she,  
 "merrily one Morning to me)  
 "— *Benvolus,*

“ *Bonvolus*, neither you or I under-  
 “ stand Surgery, and therefore can  
 “ be of little Service to *Camillo*.  
 “ What think you of a Trip to  
 “ *Italy* without him? Let him fol-  
 “ low us when he is recover’d. I  
 “ own I was startled at the Propo-  
 “ sal, yet a Spirit of Revenge made  
 “ me break the Ties of Hu-  
 “ manity; I remember’d that he  
 “ had robb’d me of a Woman I at  
 “ that Time thought valuable;  
 “ though Experience has since con-  
 “ vinc’d me, how little she de-  
 “ serv’d any Man’s giving himself  
 “ a Moment’s Uneasiness about her.  
 “ We set out without even taking  
 “ leave of him, and passed thro’  
 “ the



" the Towns you have mentioned,  
 " in your Pursuit of the sup-  
 " pos'd *Alicia*, and my Affair at  
 " *Rome* seems to have been a  
 " Punishment on me for leaving  
 " *Camillo* in the Condition he was  
 " in. As to taking his Mistress  
 " from him, I was justifiable e-  
 " nough; the Laws of Love, as  
 " well as those of War, allow  
 " of Reprisals."

*Alicia* had a Crowd of Admi-  
 rers; *Samilcar*, who had, before her  
 Marriage with *Frankville*, courted  
 her as a Mistress, now thought pro-  
 per to offer honourable Conditions;  
 but had the Mortification of re-  
 ceiving

ceiving a flat Denial. The Chevalier *d'Aigremont* vainly imagin'd, that whenever he should please to offer Marriage, no Woman could refuse him; but here he found his Mistake; for *Alicia* treated him with a Coldness that stung his Pride. *Lycidas* too, was said to have made such Overtures as few Women would have refus'd; but she was deaf to all; insomuch, that every body concluded she was inaccessible in every Shape.

*Castillante* was by this Time come over, and the World soon perceiv'd that he was to be the happy Man; but though he was

extremely

extremely pressing, she was inflexible ; and told him, that though she had confess'd her Love for him at a Time when perhaps it was a Crime to do so, and still persisted in the same Sentiments for him ; yet she ow'd so much to Decency, and to the Memory of *Frankville*, that till the Time expir'd, which Form makes necessary upon those Occasions, he must not expect her Compliance. " But here (said she) " giving him her Hand, if you " should then be of the same Opinion as you are now, I shall have " no Objection." He receiv'd this Declaration, with a Transport not to be express'd. At the Time appointed



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pointed they were married, and became what in those Days was very rare, a shining Example of conjugal Love and Fidelity.

**F I N I S.**

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FINIS